**CHOOSING A CHURCH (A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS)**

1. Does this church believe in the essentials of the Christian faith?

* The Triune God exists eternally in three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and that these three are one God, coequal in power, glory, authority, and dominion.
* Jesus is the Son of God and the only way to God through His atoning death on the cross.
* The Bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit.
* God forgives our sins and offers everlasting life as a gift of His grace.
* Salvation is not earned.
* There is a real heaven and hell.
* Jesus is coming again.

If the church you’re checking out doesn’t believe any of these things or adhere to the Bible as the Word of God, then keep looking. Scripture use some pretty harsh language to talk about false teachers.

2. Does this church base itself on what the Bible teaches?

God has revealed His character most fully through the person of Jesus, and we learn about Jesus through reading the Bible. So the church service should be steeped in Scripture: from readings, to worship, to prayer, to the message. It should be the basis for all the church preaches, teaches, and lives. By applying the truths found in the Bible, the church will refocus your heart, allowing you to become more like Jesus.

3. Being part of a church — not just going to one, [but actually contributing to one](https://thelife.com/church-membership-so-whats-in-it-for-me) — is a way of serving God. Each person has gifts, skills, or qualities that can enrich church life. Find out what your gifts and passions are and whether there is a way you can use them at this church.