

TALK IT OVER

My Bad Church Experience

BOTTOM LINE

The Church is an imperfect representation of Christ.

CONVERSATION STARTER

What and where was the first church you attended? How old were you?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily: newpointe.org/thedaily
- A short video on [putting church hurt behind you](#) (46 sec.)

KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. Galatians 5:13 NIV

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 John 5:1-4, 11-12 NIV

“The problem of church hurt has always been the problem, is the problem, and will be the problem until Jesus comes back. The church is an **imperfect** representation of God.” – Dave VanDonge

“The more you know Jesus, the less others (the Church) will be able to negatively impact your view of Him.” – Dave VanDonge

TALK IT OVER

Everyone who has been an active part of a church for very long has been hurt by “the church.” What has been true for you? What are the reasons you see that people blame God and the church for people’s mistakes? Talk about misuse of power in the church. Discuss the need for grace and truth. Jesus didn’t balance grace and truth. He was ALL grace and ALL truth. How does humility impact our representation of Him? Acts 2:42-47 is a summary of how God used the church powerfully then and throughout church history: prayer, service, persuasive teaching, and suffering. How do you see those working or lacking in our church and the Church as a whole today? When we do these well, we are bringing Jesus to people. How has that happened for you? What is the difference between knowing Jesus and knowing about Him? How does that change your perspective on the church? Share about someone who is playing the melody imperfectly, but you clearly hear the song of Jesus.

ACTION STEP

The Church is God’s gift me, and I am part of His gift to the world. I will pray for my church, THE Church, and me to use power wisely and operate in grace and truth. I will let go of any hurt I have held. _____