

The WAY you should leave a local church:

- 1. with respect (to everyone)**
- 2. On purpose, with no axe to grind**
- 3. above the table, not in secret because you are afraid of conflict**
- 4. write a letter as to not leave room for gossip**
- 5. Stay friends with people when possible**

5 Really Bad Reasons To Leave Your Church

- 1. “I’m not being fed”**
- 2. “It’s getting too big”**
- 3. “I don’t agree with everything that is being preached”**
- 4. “My Needs Aren’t Being Met”**
- 5. Unresolved Conflict**

Normal and Valid reasons to find a new church.

1. Not in Unity with major Values, Doctrine or Mission
2. Irreconcilable differences, only after a proper Biblical process and attempt to reconcile
3. Ministry calling that can not be applied here. (no opportunity to serve where I’m gifted)
4. Moving to another city
5. Unhealthy or dysfunctional leadership. No matter who’s at fault, you must try several times to work with others. Let them know how severe your frustration is and your willingness to help find solutions.

Why people quit church...

Though there are certainly far more reasons, I am listing the top seven reasons I heard from these formerly active members. For now, I will not make qualitative or analytical comments about their decisions. These top seven reasons are listed in order by the frequency I heard them.

1. **Moral failure.** The most common scenario is a sexual affair. The member who was once revered becomes intensely embarrassed and ashamed, so much so that he or she cannot face the members and friends at church.
2. **Dropping out of a group.** The church member stops his or her regular attendance in a small group or Sunday school class. It is almost inevitable that, without the accountability and fellowship a small group brings, that person is headed to be a complete church dropout.
3. **Burnout.** The church member is asked to do many things because he or she tackles them with such passion and faithfulness. But some of these very active members don't know how to say no. They burnout and leave church completely.
4. **Traumatic event.** A painful loss or some similar pain can cause many church members to lean on fellow Christians even more. But some react in an opposite fashion and leave the fellowship.
5. **Dropping out of a ministry.** The church member's primary point of reference and connection with the church is a particular ministry. If he or she leaves that ministry (or in a few cases was asked to leave), it is not unusual for them to see no reason to continue with the church at all.
6. **Major interpersonal conflict.** Marginal church members tend to drop out at the first hint of even minor interpersonal conflict. Very active members are more resilient, recognizing that no church members are perfect. But if the conflict becomes severe, some of the very active church members will leave as well.
7. **Gradual withdrawal.** Most of the time a very active church member will drop out rather suddenly. But, on a few occasions, they just gradually withdraw from involvement in the church. These dropouts had trouble articulating to me why they left, or why they slowly withdrew from involvement. As one lady told me, "It's like I woke up one morning, and I was no longer involved in the church."

Church dropouts sadly are all too common. But some of these dropouts were once among the most faithful in the church.

What happens if I quit 1 local church without finding another one quickly?

1. Chances are, that you may stop all together. Especially if you don't leave properly.
2. Anytime you are not in a church service on Sunday, sit down at home and pray, sing, and study the word. On purpose, with family.
3. Find a way to serve other people and give financially to a ministry.
4. Don't rehearse offenses and past hurts. Ask people about their church positively.
5. Pray and talk with family about visiting churches immediately.
6. Learn grow and get plugged back in asap.