

Strengthening Church Ministries

5 Suggestions for Welcoming New People to Your church:



Hey are we really glad and welcoming new people God sends to our church?

Sometimes we think that all is well, doing the same thing for thirty years and then wonder why people don't come back to our church. Every church needs to consider taking an assessment of what is and what is not working for welcoming new people to their church.

Not every person will come back, but there may be many more if the church would consider changing a few things that showed them that they really care and want them to come back. Remember the old saying "people don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care" is very much true.

There needs to be a change in the way many churches look at the visitor that comes to their church, many are not even aware of this important aspect of ministry. Hopefully your church will do everything that is possible to make the new people feel welcomed and loved by Jesus.

1. Help the "non-typical" Visitor.

Not all visitors to your church are independent Baptist who are looking for a new church home. If that's the case your church is not reaching out to the community that God has placed it to reach and minister. There should be lost people and others that are not of the independent Baptist mindset, who are looking for the truth of God's word. Therefore the church should be open to helping these "non-typical" visitors to be welcomed just as much as anyone else. See what God says in: (James 2:1, 3, 9 "My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.")

- Put welcome centers everywhere visitors could come into the church. (occupy them)
- Put "joyful-helpful" people in these centers, not mean, fleshly, scary, people grabbers.
- Have bulletins, tracts, new letters, and any information about the church at the center.

2. Help the Visitors with directions.

Have you ever been to a place and can't find the right store, office, or parking? How about malls, new city streets, or doctors office? Hopefully the church has some new people that have never attended a church before, let alone an independent Baptist church.

- Put directional signs up that show the visitors where everything of importance is, Main Auditorium, Sunday School classes, nursery, bathrooms, and so forth.
- Have a simple map with information on it to guide them where to go, with a thank you for coming on it, this could be put on the back of the bulletin.

3. Help to Communicate with the Visitor.

Communicating with today's technology can be done in a variety of different ways to those who may be looking to visit your church. If your church is not convinced that they should use all that is available in the area of using every technology, then use what you can to reach out to new visitors.

- Websites should be clean, clear, and communicative to those who are looking for your church. (Keep up with your website, update it often with the right things)
- Newsletters take a little more time than some can give but are worth the effort.
- Online as well as in hand bulletins are now on some websites and used well.
- Videos of the services or cds can be helpful for the members as well as visitors.

4. Help Visitors Connect with someone in the church.

This takes awareness of those who are visiting and making sure that they are welcomed by the church membership. Many times there are clicks that are not even aware of anyone visiting the church. Most people have to be trained to keep a watchful eye out for new visitors and to befriend them to the church.

- Teach the members how to be friendly to those visiting the church. (Friendly but not overbearing)
- Train the members to watch for new visitors in each service.
- Try to match the visitor with someone with a common interest or relationship.
- Watch for clicks forming in the membership and redirect them to helping visitors.

5. Help the Visitor know the Love of Jesus.

The love of our Lord Jesus should be so evident in your church that the visitors see and know it when they walk through the church door. It is sad that there are many churches that the membership doesn't even have a love for each other, let alone any visitors. People are looking for someone to care and love them, and they need to see that through the membership of your church.

- Share with the visitor how much Jesus loves them in every aspect of the church service.
- Show love to all visitors who come to your church, the young, old, rich, poor, dirty, those who look and act different than you do.
- Seek the visitors as they are leaving and make a visit to their home if possible that week.

God has sent someone to visit your church and He wants you to be the best representative for Him as you can be for His glory. Take your visitor serious, or God may take them to a church that will.