

# How to Find a Good Church

---

BY RICK WARREN

After accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior, finding a church family is probably the most important step you can take to becoming spiritually mature.

A Christian isn't just to be a believer; you are to be a believer. A healthy church is a place where you can find and fulfill God's five purposes for your life: belonging to a group of believers, worshiping God, maturing in your faith, serving God and others, and learning to share God's love with people outside the faith.

There are a lot of great churches; however, not all churches are Christian and not all Christian churches are healthy, so you need to put some thought in on how to choose a church.

**Before you join a church you need to check out four things:**

## 1. Statement of Faith

### What does the church believe?

This is key and determines if a church is "Christian" or not. Every solid Christian church will have a statement of faith detailing what it believes.

## 2. Style of Worship

### Does the worship style help you feel God's presence?

When you join a church, don't try to change the worship style. Instead, find a church that fits your style. When you're looking for a church, you need to ask two things: "Is this church right for me?" and "Am I right for this church?"

## 3. Strategy

### What are its goals?

Take time to find out the visions, goals, and objectives of the church. A healthy church follows the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) by welcoming new members and evangelizing the community. A healthy church will also encourage its members to serve others by volunteering.

## 4. Structure

### How is it organized?

Ask yourself, "Is there a sense of freedom at this church?" because the Bible says, "*Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom*" (2 Corinthians 3:17 NIV). Find out if the church you're considering has small groups. Small groups are a place where you can learn to relate to people.

Now, go find a church and join it. Be sure you attend weekly services and give back to your church by volunteering. Don't hop around, be committed. The church is a family. It's not a building, club, organization, or institution. It's God's family. When you commit your life to Jesus Christ, you become part of a family. And every believer needs a spiritual family to belong to—that's why you need a church home.

