

O. H. M. S.

B. M. COULTER,  
Dy. P. M. Gen'l



*FREE*

*Recovered by divers from wreck of SS Congress of Ireland*

## Reading the Mail

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(doctrine and application in the letters of  
Christ and the apostles to 1<sup>st</sup> century  
churches)

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, CANADA, }  
DEAD LETTER OFFICE  
AT OTTAWA.

Part 5

## Reading the Mail

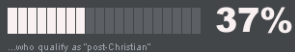
Week 1. Christ's letters to the 7 churches (Doctrine and Application)

Week 2. Christian Doctrine  
(What the church believes and teaches)

Week 3. Doctrine and Truth  
(Christianity as objective truth, using logic and being faithful to doctrinal truths)

Week 4. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church  
(J.P. Moreland, Andy Stanley on "Day One")





NEW Christians React to the Legalization of Same-Sex Marriage: 9 Key Findings | Five Factors Changing Women's Relationship with Churches

TOPICS Blog | Faith/Spirituality | Culture | Media | Family/Kids | Millennials | Leadership | Congregations | Organic Church | Donors/Cause

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## Americans Divided on the Importance of Church



March 25, 2014 — What, if anything, helps Americans grow in their faith? When Barna Group asked, people offered a variety of answers—prayer, family or friends, reading the Bible, having children—but church did not even crack the top-10 list.

Although church involvement was once a cornerstone of American life, U.S. adults today are evenly divided on the importance of attending church. While half (49%) say it is "somewhat" or "very" important, the other 51% say it is "not too" or "not at all" important.

The divide between the religiously active and those resistant to churchgoing impacts American culture, morality, politics and religion.

Looking to future generations does not paint an optimistic picture for the importance of churchgoing. Millennials (those 30 and under) stand out as least likely to value church attendance; only two in 10 believe it is important. And more than one-third of Millennial young adults (35%) take an anti-church stance. In contrast, Elders (those over 68) are the most likely (40%) to view church attendance as "very" important, compared to one-quarter (24%) who deem it "not at all" important. Boomers (ages 49–67) and Gen Xers (ages 30–48) fall in the middle of these polar opposites. While the debate rages about what will happen to Millennials as they get older—Will they return to church attendance later in life?—they are starting at a lower baseline for church participation and commitment than previous generations of young adults.

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### WHAT'S NEW

#### KNOW YOUR CITY



#### New Research

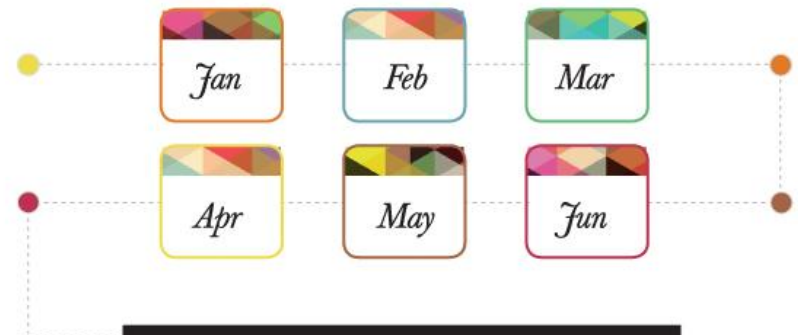
Get to know the spiritual profile of your area with the new Barna Cities reports. Now with comparative data for your region.  
Pick from 117 cities and 48 states



#### NEW! Making Space for Millennials

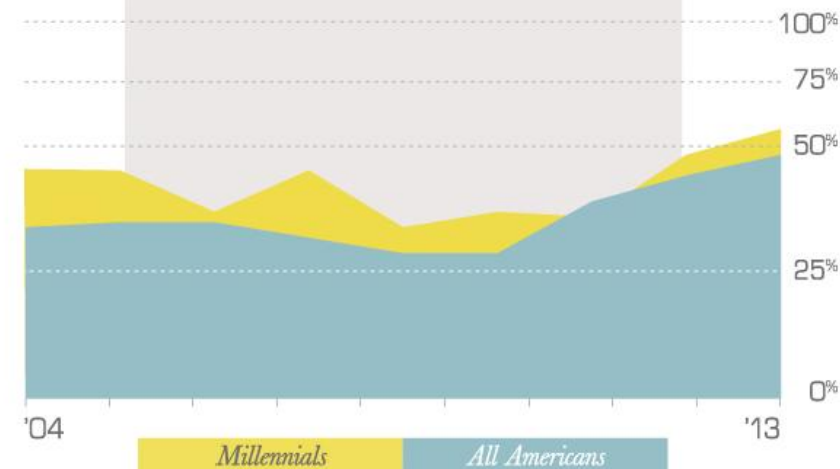
Equip your team with innovative, cutting-edge

*59% of Millennials who grew up in the church have dropped out at some point*



*Have not attended in the past six months*

The number of people who say they have not attended a church function at all in the past six months has increased considerably in the past 10 years. This is true particularly among younger Americans; more than half of Millennials haven't been to church in at least six months.

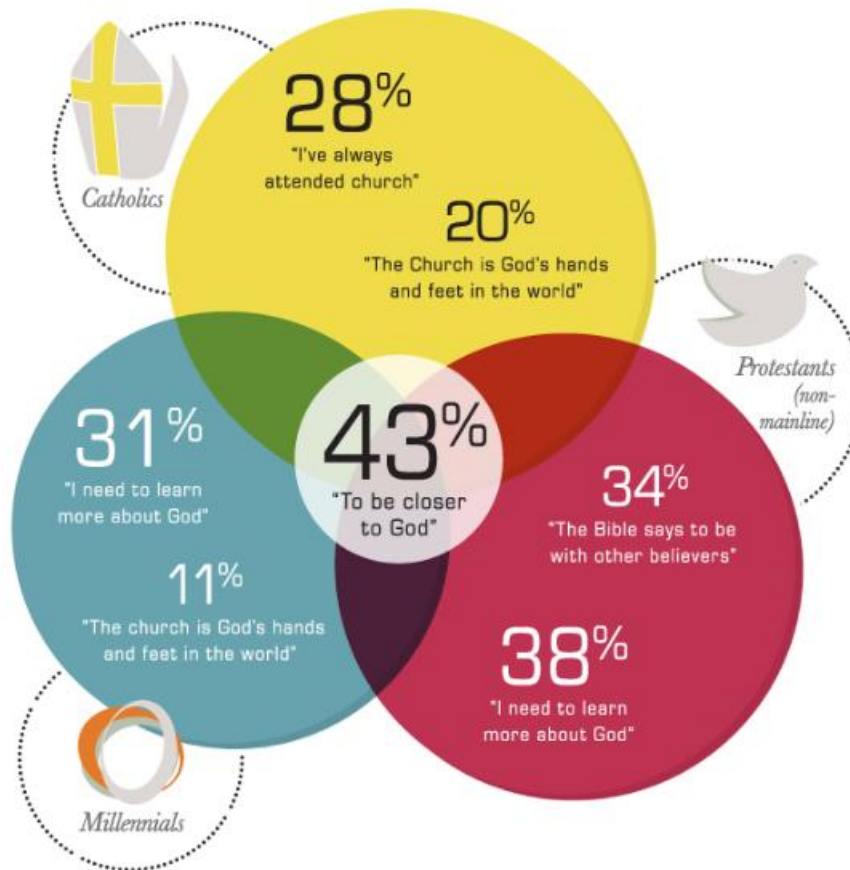


March 25, 2014 — What, if anything, helps Americans grow in their faith? When Barna Group asked, people offered a variety of answers—prayer, family or friends, reading the Bible, having children—but church did not even crack the top-10 list.

# Why do you ATTEND CHURCH?

If you think it's important to attend church, chances are the main reason you go is "to be closer to God." No matter their age, denomination, or background, the majority of people who value church cite this as their top reason for going to church.

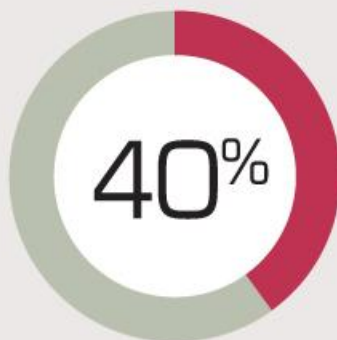
After that, though, people's motivations tend to vary.



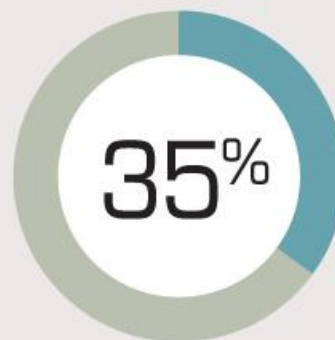


## *Why don't you* ATTEND CHURCH?

Across age and denomination, the top two reasons  
unchurched Americans said they didn't think attending  
church was important were always the same:



*"I find God elsewhere"*



*"Church is not relevant  
to me personally"*



## *Why don't you* ATTEND CHURCH?

Across age and denomination, the top two reasons  
unchurched Americans said they didn't think attending  
church was important were always the same:

Although people cite their primary reasons for attending church as growing closer to God and learning more about him, Barna Group finds such closeness is a rare occurrence. Fewer than two out of 10 churchgoers feel close to God on even a monthly basis. Additionally, while almost two-thirds of those who value church attendance go to learn more about God, fewer than one in 10 (6%) who have ever been to church say they learned something about God or Jesus the last time they attended. In fact, the majority of people (61%) say they did not gain any significant or new insights regarding faith when they last attended.

I'M NEW

ENGAGE WITH US

WATCH MESSAGES



## Big Church



DAY ONE

Jan 09, 2011

Andy Stanley

When you think of church, what's the first thing that comes to mind? A building with pews, choirs in robes, a band? Is this an accurate picture, or is church supposed to be something different?

### SELECT A MESSAGE:



Overview

1

Day One

2

Big Prayers



Our 'Church'



In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

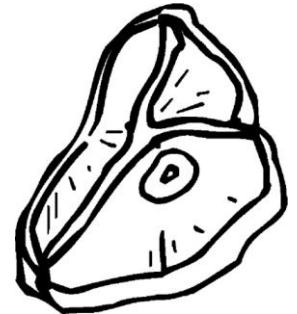
(Hebrews 5:12-14 NIV)



# Our 'Church'

Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And God permitting, we will do so.

(Hebrews 6:1-3 NIV)



What is important to God  
about church?

In light of  
our study?

In your  
opinion?

What do you think is the best way to honor God as a church gathering?

ἐκκλησία

# How do we move forward?

Continue?

Grow?

Back to  
the  
Chapel?

Look for  
another  
church?



# If we continue?

What  
should we  
change?

What is  
working?

We  
should...  
(what)?

I want  
more...  
(what)?

# Future themes and topics?

God's  
Sovereignty  
in Ezekiel

Role of  
Women

Effective  
Christian  
Witnesses

Life After  
Death

Using  
Logic in  
Apologetics

Jesus in  
the OT

Gospel of  
John

Doctrine  
of  
Salvation

Does God  
have a Plan  
(for Me)?

Hebrew  
History:  
Joshua to  
Herod

Sermon  
Sampler

Deitrich  
Bonhoeffer's  
Grace

Early  
Church  
Fathers

# Discussion



"This is the part I always hate."