

THE *Big 3*

EPISODE: 228

TITLE: Is it Time to Leave Your Church?

If you're thinking about leaving your church, ask yourself why you originally started engaging with this particular church body in the first place. What did you like about it? What drew you to it... and what's now changed?

Here are three things to believe and consider if you're thinking about leaving your church:

1. **The church is people. Always has been...it's never been the building.**
Leaving your church, in many ways, is a little like opting out of part of your family. Only immature, selfish "family members" make the decision quickly or without counsel and prayer.
2. **Ask yourself why you originally started engaging with this particular church body.** What did you like about it? What's now changed, and how might God want to use you to change things about it? Or...What might God be wanting to teach you and your family by staying part of this church? If the gospel is being proclaimed, displayed and experienced within your church, you probably should stay and be a part of any changes that still need to happen. Healthy families are always growing and changing...that's a good thing!
3. **Discuss the 7 reasons +1 that it may be legitimately time to leave your church** with your spouse, a close friend or your pastor. Has any consumerism crept into your thoughts? Are your feelings hurt? Is 'greener grass' syndrome kicking in a little? After praying through all of this, if there are specific and warranted reasons to move on, then do so quietly. Don't make a fuss or bad-rap anyone or the church. When you find a new church family to be a part of, don't gossip or drag your past issues with you. Remember, this is still part of God's family and the bride of Christ.

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Caesar & Heath