

Church Etiquette

101

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Church Etiquette
101

Also Known As Common Sense and
Common Courtesy

CharDell Self

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Common Sense and Common Courtesy*

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The use of the names Sister Smith, Brother Brown, little Susie, little Johnny, etc. are for illustrative purposes only and do not represent any known persons.

Dedication



To the older women of First Baptist Church, Clarksdale, MS who modeled style, grace, and order. Thank you for inspiration.

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H.O.N.O.R.

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We are living in an era where consistent church attendance is no longer the norm, the church and the pastor are no longer revered, and common sense etiquette has become foreign to the contemporary church member. Something must be said.

Too many of our churches are not what they used to be to us or to the community. What happened? Once upon a time, the church and the family were vital in most homes. What happened? Are we so modern that we forgot about our foundation? Something must be said.

This is not a book about church history. This is not a book on theology. This is not a book on playing the blame game. It is about taking responsibility for our own parts in the descent. It is about starting with one person getting it right and making a difference. It is about what used to be called common sense and common courtesy. The point and purpose of this book is to serve as a catalyst in making common sense common once more because something must be said and something must be done.

Acknowledgments



Nikole Daniels, your insight and expertise proved invaluable. Thank you.

Thank you to all the godly men and women who demonstrated and set the tone for how we are to conduct ourselves in God's house so everyone gets the most from the worship experience. Thank you for modeling common-sense theology.

Introduction



It was the norm for my mom's generation as well as those before, to go to church every Sunday. They went because they genuinely enjoyed the total worship experience, the sermon, and the choir. The fellowship kept them coming back. Yet some went from a sense of obligation. For others, it was sheer habit. Let's face it, some folks went simply because of potential business contacts, yet, others went looking for a "good man" or a "good woman" to marry.

There remains a myriad of motives as to why we go to church. Unfortunately, few in our generation see the significance of corporate worship. Too often it boils down to, "Sleep in or go to church... let's see what the weatherman says." It is an even sadder state when sleeping in or hanging out are the only options being considered. As a result, our reasoning for attending worship service tends to be reflected in our behavior once we get there. Our behavior has a significant impact on our worship experience as well as the worship experience of others. In other words, when we fail to demonstrate basic, or common sense church etiquette, we cause distractions

that interfere with the worship experience, for everyone. As believers, it is our charge to set the tone and example for the non-believer and not the other way around. Because we see so much of the world in the church, it is easy to be confused as to where we are and why we are there. Often, we don't see the benefits of the fellowship because of the countless distractions.

In my mind, regardless of the secondary rationale for attending church, the primary mindset should be to grow deeper in our knowledge and love of God and to strengthen one another as we fellowship so we can go out and be a blessing to someone else. And with that being said, let's dive in with some basics.

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