



Heart of the Matter Ministries

A Guide to Find a Local Church

GUIDE TO FIND A LOCAL CHURCH

1. What to Look for in a Church

Biblical Teaching

- The Bible is the foundation (2 Timothy 3:16)
- Jesus Christ is central.
- Free from bondage. A church should never place people in bondage through control, fear, or man-made rules; it should lead believers into freedom by faithfully teaching and living according to the Word of God.

Love and Community

- People genuinely care for one another.
- Welcoming environment
- Not judged by your past. Welcome you as you are, walking with you in grace as you grow, develop, and step into your God-given calling.

Scripture:

- John 13:35 NIV *“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

Prayer-Focused

- Prayer is active and encouraged.

Sound Doctrine

Look for churches that teach:

- Salvation through Jesus Christ alone
- The authority of Scripture. All scripture is God breathed, our instructions for salvation and growth.
- Example of Beliefs:
 - **IN THE TRIUNE GOD: FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT.** Eternally one God in three persons, perfect in love, holiness, and authority. (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Deuteronomy 6:4)
 - **JESUS CHRIST, THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD,** was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose again for the propitiation of our sins. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23, Hebrews 4:15, 1 Peter 3:18, Romans 5:8, Luke 24:6; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4, 1 John 2:2; Romans 3:25)
 - **SALVATION IS A GIFT OF GOD'S GRACE,** received through faith alone in Jesus Christ, not by works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8–9; Titus 3:5; Romans 10:9–10)



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- **GOD'S LOVE EXTENDS TO ALL MANKIND, AND THROUGH JESUS CHRIST**, we are restored into fellowship with God. (John 3:16; 1 John 4:8–10, 2 Corinthians 5:18–19; Romans 5:10–11)
- **THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED AND AUTHORITATIVE WORD OF GOD**. Our foundation for truth, instruction, and daily living. (2 Timothy 3:16–17; Psalm 119:105; Hebrews 4:12)
- **EVERY BELIEVER HAS A GOD-GIVEN PURPOSE**, uniquely designed by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to advance His Kingdom. (Jeremiah 29:11; Ephesians 2:10; 1 Corinthians 12:4–7)
- **COMMUNITY IS ESSENTIAL FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH**, believers are called to gather, encourage one another, and serve in unity as the Body of Christ. (Hebrews 10:24–25; Acts 2:42–47; 1 Corinthians 12:25–27)

▶ 2. What to Be Careful Of

- Teaching that contradicts Scripture
- Focus on money over ministry.
- Lack of accountability
- Cult-like control or isolation

Scripture:

- Matthew 7:15 NIV *“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.”*

📍 3. Practical Ways to Find a Church

Start Here:

- Search online: “Bible-based church near me”
- Ask other believers.
- Visit multiple churches.

When You Visit, Ask:

- Do they teach the Bible clearly?
- Is Jesus the focus?
- Do I sense truth and peace?

🌟 4. Trust the Holy Spirit

God will guide you.

Scripture:

- John 16:13 – *“He will guide you into all truth.”*

📅 5. Give It Time

- Visit 2–3 times.



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- Attend a small group or Bible study.
 - Pray before deciding.
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6. Get Planted and Grow

Once you find a church:

- Attend regularly.
- Join a group.
- Serve

Scripture:

- Psalm 92:13 – *“Planted in the house of the Lord...”*
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7. You are not alone.

If you have questions, feel free to contact us at contactus@heartmatterministries.org