

1Ti 4:7-8 But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; (8) for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

On average, 69% of U.S. adults were members of a church in 1998-2000, compared with 52% in 2016-2018. – Gallup poll

What does this mean for society?

Obviously, these people didn't think anything good was coming from their attendance at a church.

# “Associations of Religious Upbringing With Subsequent Health and Well-Being From Adolescence to Young Adulthood”

“Compared with no attendance, at least weekly attendance of religious services was associated with greater life satisfaction and positive affect, a number of character strengths, lower probabilities of marijuana use and early sexual initiation, and fewer lifetime sexual partners.”

“recent estimates of the rates of intergenerational transmission of religious affiliation were 82% in Jews, 85% in Muslims, 62% in Evangelical Protestants, and 43% in Catholics, and 59% of parents who attended religious services at least weekly had children who reported frequent service attendance”

Bengtson VL. Families and Faith: How Religion Is Passed Down Across Generations. New York, NY: Oxford University Press; 2013.

Heb 10:24-25 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, (25) not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Does this really do any good for us?



The researchers said, “We hypothesized that both frequent service attendance and prayer or meditation are each associated with greater psychological, mental, behavioral, and physical health and character strengths outcomes. Drawing upon prior literature in adults, we expected that service attendance would have stronger associations with various outcomes than would prayer or meditation.”

Compared with never attendance, at least weekly service attendance was subsequently associated with greater life satisfaction and positive affect, greater volunteering, greater sense of mission, more forgiveness, and lower probabilities of drug use and early sexual initiation



Greater life satisfaction – Php 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (7) And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

greater volunteering – Mar 10:44-45 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.  
(45) "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

greater sense of mission – 1Pe 3:8-9 To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; (9) not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

more forgiveness – Eph 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

lower probabilities of drug use – Gal 5:19-21 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, (20) idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, (21) envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

lower probabilities of ... early sexual initiation

1Co 7:2 But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband.

Rom 1:26-27 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, (27) and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

Have you ever wondered why God did not want us practicing LGBTQP (P stands for pedophile)

83% of primary and secondary syphilis cases where sex of sex partner was known in the United States.

The rate for HIV infection is 100 times higher for men violating Rom 1.26-27 than for heterosexual women. (CDC data)



Luk 17:1-2 He said to His disciples, "It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come, but woe to him through whom they come! (2) "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he would cause one of these little ones to stumble.

Do you want to train your children not to sin?  
Take them to church!

Church attendance at least once a week was associated with fewer depressive symptoms and lower probabilities of probable posttraumatic stress disorder, cigarette smoking, prescription drug misuse, history of STIs, and abnormal Pap test results.

Children have so many anxieties –

When I was just a little girl

I asked my mother, what will I be

Will I be pretty

Will I be rich

Here's what she said to me

Que será, será

Whatever will be, will be

The future's not ours to see

Que será, será

What will be, will be

That song is not really true.

Isa 64:8 But now, O LORD, Thou art our Father, We are the clay, and Thou our potter; And all of us are the work of Thy hand.

Rom 9:20 On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it? 21 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use, and another for common use?

Notice again –

Church attendance at least once a week was associated with fewer depressive symptoms and lower probabilities of probable posttraumatic stress disorder, cigarette smoking, prescription drug misuse, history of STIs, and abnormal Pap test results.

You can spare your children a world of hurt and distress by doing it God's way.

Eph 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (2) HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), (3) THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH. (4)

And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

## We learn about depression and anxiety in the Scriptures

1Pe 5:6-7 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, (7) casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

depression and anxiety lead to posttraumatic stress disorder, cigarette smoking, prescription drug misuse, history of STIs, and frequent sexual encounters.

On the other hand, realizing that we can be the child of a king is empowering.



Who am I that The King would bleed and die for?  
Who am I that he would pray not my will, thine  
Lord,  
The answer I may never know  
Why He ever loved me so  
But to that old rugged cross He'd go  
For who am I? – Rusty Goodman

We control our destiny when we submit to the Lord  
and follow His word.

Php 3:18-21 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, (19) whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. (20) For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; (21) who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Have your children obeyed the gospel?

Don't hinder them – bring them to church to study  
God's word – at least once a week.

Give them the start that will alleviate their trials on  
earth and take them home to glory – by and by.

Act 22:16 And now why do you wait? Rise and be  
baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his  
name.'