

What's the Deal with Visiting Other Worship Groups?
(Subtitle-What I Don't Know Won't Hurt Me, Right?)
Text-2 Timothy 2: 15-16; 22-26

QUESTION	MY ANSWER
Why would we visit/attend other worship groups' services?	
What are important things to know/understand before visiting/attending others' services?	
How do we discover what other worship groups are "about?"	
What do we need to know/understand about our own worship group?	
What is "unity" within a worship group and why is it important?	
What is the definition of a cult? What are signs/practices/beliefs of cult?	
How do we combat false teaching, false teachers, false doctrine?	
What should be the goal(s) of every genuine Jesus Believer while alive?	

DISCOVERY-Let's read the passage-2 Timothy 2: 15-16; 22-26

Consider these passages and their applications:

- 2 Timothy 2: 15-Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth.
 - ✓ Expecting Matt, Gene and other leaders to always know the Bible more than you is the opposite of this directive.
 - ✓ YOU should be so familiar with the Bible contents that truth(s) should be evident and not debatable. (creation, race, sex, marriage, sexuality, alcohol, recreational, drug usage)
 - ✓ This requires dedicated work on your part
- 2 Timothy 2:16-But shun profane and idle babblings for they will increase to more ungodliness.
 - ✓ Crude language, crude jokes, gossip, rumors, backbiting lend to missing the mark more often and more severely
 - ✓ This is partly why conservative worship groups decry movies with higher than a "G" rating
 - ✓ This is positive instruction to "watch your own mouth, too."
- 2 Timothy 2:22-Flee also youthful lusts but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.
 - ✓ So, it's easier to consider and act on selfish, sexual, carnal satisfactions always but more so when you're younger
 - ✓ The community of Believers should be an encouragement to you to honor Jesus with your actions, words, thoughts
- 2 Timothy 2:23-But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing they will generate strife.
 - ✓ If you know the truth, then do not engage in silly and pointless arguments. This does not mean "avoid speaking the truth" or "avoid correction." This is more evident between a Believer and unbeliever. Believers should be able to avoid this because we know the truth through our studying
- 2 Timothy 2:24-And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient.
 - ✓ This is the "secret sauce" of how pastors/preachers are able to continually teach truths without yelling, screaming and battling with their congregation
 - ✓ This characteristic is desirable so that knowledge does not "inflate one's head."
- 2 Timothy 2:25-in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance so that they may know the truth
 - ✓ This humility refers to shining the truth spotlight on yourself first and primarily and then providing correction to others because the Holy Spirit can change the heart and reveal truth
- 2 Timothy 2:26-and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil having been taken captive by him to do his will
 - ✓ Authentic Believers cannot be taken captive by the devil but they CAN be influenced by the adversary and unbelievers.
 - ✓ The infusion of truth can assist in real "woke" experience-not a cultural "woke-ness" but a Jesus-honoring sense
- Some interesting truths that are often unknown and why study/research is important

Baptists often believe alcoholic beverages and cigarettes are a sin against Yahweh God
Methodists believe you can lose your Salvation
Presbyterians believe there is minimal/no need for evangelism
Church of Christ believes that only baptism imparts Salvation
Pentecostals believe that you must speak in tongues if you are a Believer
Word of Faith movements believe you can speak blessings/curses into existence
Calvinists believe there is no free will
7th Day Adventists believe that Jesus has not returned yet because Christians don't worship on Saturdays
Catholics believe communion/the sacraments provide forgiveness and Salvation
Latter Day Saints believe that they will eventually become gods of their own universes
Jehovah Witnesses believe holidays are not to be acknowledged or celebrated

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QUESTION	MY ANSWER
Why would we visit/attend other worship groups' services?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To partner with other Believers • To better understand their (and our) needs • To learn from our respective strengths • To better practice the Kingdom right here and right now • To increase ability to influence the communities • To increase our own confidence and excitement
What are important things to know/understand before visiting/attending others' services?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who they worship and why • How they worship • What they believe • What the leadership says, practices and does
How do we discover what other worship groups are "about?"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone and speak with the leadership • Visit the leadership before a service and have a conversation • Thoroughly view/review the website to understand how they advertise
What do we need to know/understand about our own worship group?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Whom do we believe? • What do we believe? • Why do we believe it? • What is our (collective) purpose? • What is our mission? • What is our vision?
What is "unity" within a worship group and why is it important?	Consistently practicing the main ideas, themes, actions and activities. (Do our actions, words, thoughts honor Jesus?)
What is the definition of a cult? What are signs/practices/beliefs of cult?	<p>A misplaced or excessive "religious" admiration for a particular person, item or ideal.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opposes critical thinking 2. Special doctrine apart from Scripture 3. Isolates members and punishes them for leaving 4. Inappropriate loyalty demonstrations to leaders 5. Dishonors the family unit 6. Crosses Scriptural boundaries of behavior (sexual purity versus personal decisions and self-ownership) 7. Separates from the Church
How do we combat false teaching, false teachers, false doctrine?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowing, practicing, stating what is Truth • Being publically/openly accountable for our own "missing the mark" • Using the standards of Jesus and the Scriptures to explain the difference between "living to please myself" and "living to please Jesus"
What should be the goal(s) of every genuine Jesus Believer while alive?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of spiritual gifts • Ability to talk about Jesus everywhere you are and wherever you go • Confidence to assist converts and make them disciples • Participating in their baptism • To expand Jesus' Kingdom as much as you can while alive on earth