



QA: Politician's Church Attendance by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: Is a politician's church attendance "news?"

ANSWER: It should not be so! On December 8, 2020, *The Washington Post* had an article headlined, "Joe Biden goes to church. Politics remains outside" written by Robin Givhan. In her article, Givhan said: "Church attendance isn't a measure of one's faith or a substitution for good deeds, but it is a way of signaling religiosity."

1. **It is sad, indeed, that any politician's attendance to "church" merits a "news" article.** Who separated "church" from "state?" It was not God, nor the US Constitution, but the politicians' lack of faith, perhaps? A "state church" is wrong, a state without Bible influence is wrong. It might be "news" to show *reporters* attending church!
2. **According to The Washington Post's website**, Givhan is "Washington Post senior critic-at-large writing about politics, race and the arts."
 - a. Even they haven't hired her to be a "critic-at-large" about religion, so why do they print her opinion about "church attendance?"
 - b. If "church attendance isn't a measure of one's faith" then what is it?
 - 1) According to the New Testament, the word "church" means "assembly" or "a coming together." When re-instructing "the church of God which is at Corinth," including those "called to be saints" (**1 Corinthians 1:2**) about the Lord's Supper, Paul wrote: "when you come together as a church" (**1 Corinthians 11:18**). They were coming "together in one place" (**1 Corinthians 11:20**). Under the Apostle's Holy Spirit-inspired instruction, First Century saints were obligated to gather in one place for the Lord's Supper, and this was "on the first day of the week" (**Acts 20:7**). Spiritual encouragement comes to those whose habit is "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together" (**Hebrews 10:25**).
 - 2) Jesus Christ "built" His church (**Matthew 16:18**), and "He is the head of the body, the church" (**Colossians 1:18**). Since there is "one body" (**Ephesians 4:4**), there is one head of that body, Jesus Christ. Jesus said:

"It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me." (**John 6:45**)

How do those who have "heard and learned" come to Jesus, without church attendance? If the church is the body of Christ, then learning Scripture brings the saints together by church attendance. If not, why not?

3. Givhan happened to be right when she said: "Church attendance isn't ... a substitution for good deeds." Indeed, Scripture says:

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.
(**Hebrews 13:15-16**)

It is not worship OR good works, but BOTH! But if "good works" show faith (**James 2:18**), then church attendance for worship helps "stir up love and good works" (**Hebrews 10:25**), an expression of faith!

— jtpll, March 28, 2021