

Where is Everyone?

Far fewer Texans voted in the recent May 3rd local elections than in the November 5th 2024 national and state elections, even though important local decisions-like costly bond propositions-are often decided during these lower-turnout elections. Some concerned lawmakers in the recent Texas legislative session pushed for legislation to require all bond measures be placed on the November ballot when turnout is typically higher. Why? Because it simply makes more sense that major decisions affecting everyone should involve everyone. When only a small percentage of citizens show up to vote, the few end up deciding for the many.

But what does that have to do with the church?

Just like anemic voter turnout in May elections, our Sunday afternoon and Wednesday evening worship services suffer from “anemic attendance.” Sunday morning worship service attendees fill many seats, but where is everyone on Sunday afternoon and Wednesday evenings? Are we allowing a small fraction of the congregation to carry the spiritual weight for the whole church?

When God calls for the church to gather, He calls us to be fully engaged-not partially, not when it’s convenient, not just on Sunday mornings. Consider the example of the early church in Acts 2:46. *“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart...”*

The early Christians didn’t treat their faith like a part-time commitment. They gathered often, prayed constantly, and faithfully supported one another. Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us: *“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is that manner of some, but exhorting one another...”*

When we miss opportunities to gather, we miss opportunities to grow, to encourage, and to be encouraged. The Sunday afternoon and midweek services aren’t “optional extras”-they’re lifelines. They offer spiritual renewal, person-to-person connection, and deeper Bible teaching that can’t be replaced by a one-hour Sunday morning service.

Just as it’s unwise for a few citizens to make important decisions for an entire state, it is spiritually unhealthy for just a few to gather while the rest of the body stays home. A thriving church needs its members present, engaged and active. If we want strong faith and a strong church, we must show up, engage and build one another up at every opportunity.

So when Sunday afternoon or Wednesday evening rolls around, ask yourself: Where am I? Better yet, where should I be? Let’s not let our attendance be anemic-let it be abundant.

~Ron Josselet (assisted by ChatGPT)