

When Going to Church Is Hard

by Bob Smietana, p. 58

Attendance statistics only tell part of the story. Why are so many Christians staying home on Sundays?

1. How many different churches have you attended in your lifetime?
2. How did you find your current church? What did they do that made you want to come back for a second visit—or stay?
3. Were you surprised by the statistics on church attendance in this article? Have you noticed an increase in “church switching” in your community?
4. What factors do you think are critical to make a church a welcoming congregation?
5. Bob Smietana says his family wasn’t just looking for a church—they were shopping for a new family. Do you feel like your church is “family”? If so, how?