

“What If They Come?”

We have all heard the admonition to invite someone to attend worship services. I believe that most of us have even taken that awkward step and actually invited a friend or loved one to visit. While there are several Christians who have had friends to visit, there are many others who have invited people who never came. Since the ratio of invited ones to actual visitors is so great there may be a feeling of nonchalance about the process.

I have a question for you: What if they come?

Since first impressions are so important, we should try to make the first visit as positive as possible. Furthermore, since we don't know when that first visit might be, we need to be practicing such habits that will allow us to make them welcome.

1) Be regular in your own attendance of worship and Bible study. It would be very embarrassing (not to mention, hypocritical) to invite a friend to the worship services of the church and then you not be there because of your own negligence (Hebrews 10:25).

2) Be friendly and interact with your brothers and sisters at worship services. The church is a family, and it will be far easier to make your friend feel at home if you can comfortably introduce them to people you know and love.

3) Be knowledgeable of the layout of the church building and related facilities. If you don't know your way around, make sure you know someone you can allow to guide your friend to the places they need to go.

4) Be prepared to accompany your friend most, if not all the time during their visit. It is common courtesy to accompany someone in places and events that are unfamiliar to them. How would you feel if you were the visitor and your friend abandoned you in the same situation (Matthew 7:12)?

5) Be an active participant in the services. Why should a visitor be convinced that singing is a command of God (Ephesians 5:19) if you, a Christian, refuse to sing in a worship service?

6) Be ready to answer any of their questions about the services or the teaching that took place. If you can't do it then, delay your answer so you can study your Bible and give an adequate response (1 Peter 3:15).

Remember: We never get a second chance to make a good first impression.

—Lance Cordle