

How to Find A CHURCH



CLEARVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

YOU'RE STANDING AT A CROSSROADS.

Crossroads can be a bit sketchy, because, anytime you're at a crossroads, you realize ... inevitably ... that a decision about choosing a faith family must be made.



If you're reading this, then you know the next step in your faith journey is finding a faith family to come alongside you in the journey itself.

If you don't do anything, it will get worse.

Why?



Because faith is critical to life.

And let's be honest: trusting yourself to find the right church can feel like a choosing a road that you know is full of unknowns.

No kidding.

Whether you ever come to ClearView or not, we want to help you get past that crossroads feeling. If you never walk through our doors, we want you to be confident in the road you choose, because you need a faith family.

The journey has too many detours, too many broken bridges, and far too many curves. Besides all that, road trips are just far more fun when you have people to share the ride.

So here's a few quick insights to help you choose which turn to make.

MAKE AMENDS.

If you're coming from another church, don't make it worse on yourself.

Whatever you do, **WHATEVER . . . YOU . . . DO . . .** do not leave your former church with anger in your bones.

Make amends.

If you are frustrated with the pastor, call him and do so in a kind way.

You'll be 1 in 1,000 who will do it.

The vast majority of pastors won't beg you to stay. Honest. Most of them won't beg you to stick around, but your soul will be lighter for getting the hurt off your chest.



If someone hurt your feelings deeply, reach out to them.

For one, they probably don't even know they did it, and two, you may just find that the church you're in right now is the church where you need to stay!

We can promise you with absolute, 100%, unquestioned certainty, if you don't make amends, you'll carry that junk with you and it will absolutely affect your journey in the next church.

Make amends.

You can do it.

BE REALISTIC.

No church offers everything.

Some churches have great preaching,
and the music is tolerable.

Some churches have stunning music,
but the preaching is decent at best.

Some churches really thrive in giving you
a place to serve in missions projects that are as
big picture as their Haiti orphanage,
or something super specific like a
Franklin based sports league that serves
special needs teenagers.

So be realistic that no church is superbly balanced.
Churches may look like they have it all together,
but trust us, they don't!

There's an old axiom that goes like this:
Never look inside the kitchen of your favorite restaurant.

Kitchens are messy. 

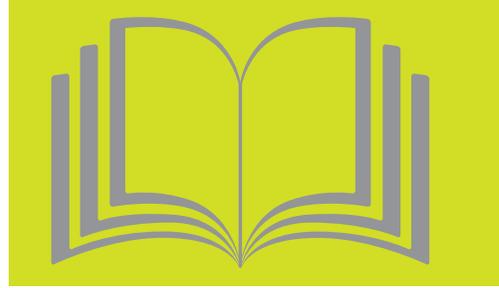
At ClearView, we want to tell you before you ever place an order:
once you get inside the kitchen you'll know in about 2.2 seconds
that life gets messy around here.

At ClearView we refuse to live in denial. There never has been,
nor will there ever be, a perfect church that fits you on every
level.

**People who aren't realistic
live in a fantasy world.**

**And fantasies ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS
let you down.**

Look inside the Scriptures and you'll see that God has never, ever asked you to look to another person to be your dream-fulfiller.



No preacher can do that.

No Bible teacher can do that.

No wife can do that.

No husband can do that.

No job can do that.

**God will never ask you to look to
another sinner to be the joy-giver in your life.
That's Jesus' role, and only He can do it.**

So the faster you are realistic about your next step, the faster you'll find the right group of people to be your people.

And while we're on the idea of placing orders ...

REFUSE TO SHOP AMENITIES.

Let's be honest, **Williamson County** is an amazing place to live.

Williamson County is full of amazing people, and many of those people go to church; which means Williamson County churches are full of all sorts of amazing amenities. We have some neat churches in this county.

Don't get caught up in the glitter of what a church can do for you. Don't get caught up in what a church can do for your kids.

If you make this mistake, you'll make the next mistake so many of us have made by approaching church with a **consumer mentality.**



What many people do is shop churches like they are shopping Target.

**Don't be like
most people!**

**Looking for a product to meet a need
is not what God had in mind
when He gave us the idea of a faith family.**



DO YOUR THEOLOGICAL HOMEWORK.

Theology can sound dry and, well, boring.

Don't be fooled. 

Theology is mission-critical, especially when you're at a crossroads trying to determine which way to go.

Do you know what theology really is?

A belief system.

And that's why theology matters so much.

What you **believe** drives how you **live**.

What you believe about money determines how you spend it.
What you believe about music determines what you download.
What you believe about food determines what you eat.

You're at a crossroads about to step into a journey that will affect your life.

So be sure you know where the church stands in their core belief system.

You can typically find this in a church's "statement of faith" or their "about" section. In most cases, you can get a good grasp of what a church believes in about 5 minutes of reading through their beliefs.

You want to find a church that believes in the Scriptures as the very word of God. God's word is trustworthy.

And in today's world of confusion, you don't need better questions, you need real answers.

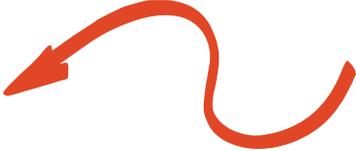
So be sure that you find a church that is unapologetic about who Jesus is, and one that believes what the Bible says as the only authority that can be trusted for life.

REACH OUT.

A church can only help you if they know the backstory.

You'd be surprised at how many people make the mistake of saying things like, "Well, nobody ever asked me what I needed."

If you're looking for something, reach out for it.

- **Make the call.**
 - **Send the email.**
 - **Ask a greeter.**
 - **Walk up to the pastor and let them know you're new.**
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You'd be surprised that your assumptions won't come true.

- Most churches won't show up at your door with 3 smiling men wearing suits.
- Most churches won't fill your inbox with 3 emails a day trying to get you to join a Bible study.
- Most churches won't invade your life.

Simply reach and let them know what you need. You may be surprised to find that your prayers get answered. **Fast!**

Plug in.

Once you've kicked the tires and done the inspection, take a step down a road.

Get a small group. Fast.

God made us for each other.



The Bible says, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up." [Ecclesiastes 4:9-10]

Be advised, a small group, is worth shopping for because it's where relationships happen.

Don't feel guilty about checking out a few different groups to see which one you connect with more than others.

Nobody would fault you for that.

You're standing at a crossroads.



Eventually you're going to have to make a decision. And you need to make a decision because faith matters.

You were created for a relationship with God. So think it through, and start walking toward Him.

Seriously, if you have any questions, give us a shout.

ClearView

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