

Things That Go “Bump” in Church

(Joshua 1:8-9)

- Introduction:
1. We have probably all been scared pretty good at one time or another, so we know how it feels.
 2. But for many people, “church” is a terrifying experience.
 3. In this lesson, I want to share with you some reasons why church can be so scary, and ways to lessen people’s fears.
 4. People are afraid of church...

I. Because of Bad Experiences

- A. Ugly and ungodly things have happened in church by people who claim to be followers of Jesus.
- B. (3 John 9-10).
- C. Don’t judge the entire body of Christ by a few ungodly members.

II. Because They Don’t Know the Jargon

- A. People often feel like outsiders when an “inside joke” is told.
 1. Listen to our announcements.
 2. M&M’s, YALL, Sister’s Circle, Taft to Eisenhower, L to L, BCC graders, Advance, PTP, etc.
- B. Incorrect Vocabulary:
 1. Pastor, Reverend, Sanctuary, join the church, etc.
- C. Church Only Vocabulary:
 1. Fruit of the vine, providentially hindered, ready recollection.
- D. Unfamiliar Vocabulary:
 1. Hermeneutics, exegesis/eisegesis, agape, legalism/liberalism, acapella, autonomous, vicarious, Christocentric, missional, Torah/Pentateuch, incarnation.
- E. (1 Corinthians 8:1).

III. Because They Don’t Feel Good Enough

- A. We need to communicate that we understand what it is like to struggle with sin and that we haven’t mastered our own struggles.
- B. (1 Timothy 1:15)

IV. Because of the Unknown and Unexpected

- A. Visitors are often singled out and embarrassed.
- B. We need to make ourselves as user-friendly as possible.
- C. (1 Corinthians 9:19-22).

V. Because It Makes Them Think About What They Don’t Want to Think About

- A. At church things like sin, death, judgment, eternity, and Hell are discussed.

- B. Many people use avoidance as a means of dealing with unpleasant issues.
- C. However, we need to help people see that many of the things we avoid are things we need to confront.
- D. (2 Corinthians 6:2).

- Conclusion:
- 1. You see, there are some things that go “bump” in the church.
 - 2. Maybe you’ve been around long enough to become accustomed to them.
 - 3. But to the rest, I would encourage you to overcome your fears.
 - 4. What you ought to be afraid of is not found in the church, but what lies in wait for you outside the church.