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VIDEO MATERIAL



SIX STEPS TO

LOVING YOUR CHURCH

FROM THE MINISTRY
OF THE FEW TO THE
MINISTRY OF THE PEW



Six Steps to Loving Your Church

Some of us really love our churches, some of us aren't so positive, and for many of us that feeling can change from week to week.

This six-session program is about how to love your church whether you're feeling enthusiastic about it or not. It's about the mindset you take with you as you go to church each week, and how that mindset is expressed in a multitude of ways, big and small.

Over the six sessions of the course you will cover subjects such as:

- your current attitudes towards church, and how they are expressed
- what the Bible says about the meaning and purposes of church
- what it means to love your church and the people who go there
- how all of us can be engaged in 'the ministry of the pew'—an active, loving service of others, before, during and after church.

Each session contains a mix of discussion, Bible study, video input and prayer, along with simple exercises to help you put the ideas into practice on Sunday.

Six Steps to Loving Your Church is a course best undertaken in a small group (of 3-8 people). To run the course you will need:

- a workbook (like this one) for each person
- access to the video segments in the course (available online or on DVD).

There are also leader's notes, which are in the back of this workbook.

About the authors

COLIN MARSHALL is the founder of Vinegrowers, an organization that trains church leaders to make disciple-making disciples. He is the author of *The Trellis and the Vine* and *The Vine Project* (with Tony Payne), *Growth Groups*, *Making Disciples* and *Passing the Baton*.

TONY PAYNE is a founder of Matthias Media and the author of many popular books and resources, including *Guidance and the Voice of God* and *Prayer and the Voice of God* (with Phillip Jensen), *Fatherhood*, *How to Walk Into Church*, *The Thing Is* and *The Generosity Project* (with Geoff Robson).



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STEPS TO
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COLIN MARSHALL
AND TONY PAYNE

 **matthiasmedia**
SYDNEY • YOUNGSTOWN

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Matthias Media

(St Matthias Press Ltd ACN 067 558 365)

Email: info@matthiasmedia.com.au

Internet: www.matthiasmedia.com.au

Please visit our website for current postal and telephone contact information.

Matthias Media (USA)

Email: sales@matthiasmedia.com

Internet: www.matthiasmedia.com

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CONTENTS

Introduction	5
1. Walking into church.....	7
2. Building in love.....	13
3. Get ready to build	19
4. Love over coffee.....	23
5. Loving the outsider	29
6. Loving your church.....	35
APPENDIX 1: Leader's notes.....	41
APPENDIX 2: How to use this course in your church (for pastors and church leaders).....	57

INTRODUCTION

Some of us really love our churches, some of us aren't so positive, and for many of us that feeling can change from week to week.

This six-session program is about how to love your church whether you're feeling enthusiastic about it or not. It's about the mindset we take with us as we go to church each week, and how that mindset is expressed in a multitude of ways, big and small. In particular, it's about the part that we all play as God's people in loving, serving and building each other up, Sunday by Sunday. We all have a ministry—the ministry of the pew.¹

Over the six sessions of the course we will cover subjects such as:

- our current attitudes towards church, and how they are expressed
- what the Bible says about the meaning and purpose of church
- what it means to love our church and the people who go there
- how we can be active encouraging servants before, during and after church, rather than just consumers or spectators.

Each session contains a mix of discussion, Bible study, video input and prayer, along with simple exercises to help you put the ideas into practice on Sunday.

Our prayer is that the fairly simple and practical ideas in this training program will change the way you think and act at church, and bear fruit in the lives of those around for years to come.

1. This phrase goes back to a widely read article that Colin wrote in 1994 for *The Briefing*. You can read it here: thebriefing.com.au/1994/03/factotum-1-the-ministry-of-the-pew/

WALKING INTO CHURCH

Getting started



Video: How do you walk into church?

Notes on video

4. When the New Testament Christians walked into church, they weren't walking into a purpose-built religious-looking building. Mostly they were walking into someone's home. How do you think this would have affected the way they thought about walking into church?

5. What do you think *God* is thinking about as you walk into church?

6. Read Ephesians 5:25-27 and 1 Corinthians 3:10-17. What do these passages teach about God's attitude towards the church?



Video: What is God thinking?

Notes on video

