



## Don't take them to Church

*by Dr. Nik Ripken*

**1** Don't take a new believer to church. Make sure he or she is genuinely saved and understands that salvation is relationship with God and not a public act in a large worship service

**2** Don't take a new believer to church. Work with the individual to ensure that the new believer knows how to feed themselves from scripture and prayer and not depend on church for spiritual nurture

**3** Don't take a new believer to church. Make sure that the new believer has a close role model to learn the Christian life by observing up close and personal how another fellow believer leads a Christian life. How to live a Christian life is not learned sitting listening to sermons. It is learned by observing and emulating a role model

**4** Don't take a new believer to church. Integrate them into a small group either forming a new group around the new believer (Person of Peace) or bringing them into an existing group. Body life is not learned watching a professionally choreographed stage performance. Body life is learned in the context of a small body when success, failure, progress, sin, and growth is addressed in a context of a small body

**5** Don't take a new believer to church. Service is learned in a context of accountability within the rest of the body. Equipping spiritual gifts are explored and encouragement received

**6** Don't take a new believer to church. Evangelism is not asking a non-believer to come to church where a paid professional preaches at them or a professional music program wows them. Evangelism is you learning to share you testimony, Gods story, and life among your non-Christian friends

**7** Don't take a new believer to church. He might learn that only professionals with many years of training ordination, etc are qualified to lead whereas in the small group everyone has a leadership role and new believer grow most quickly by being given responsibility. No one who has only been a believer a few weeks is given responsibility in the big Sunday event whereas most of

the new believers in small groups are given a growth enhancing responsibility immediately. Avoid allowing new believers to become trophies.

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