

People Really Want More Biblical Teaching in Church

The top four reasons people are dissatisfied with their churches all relate to inadequate teaching of the Bible. A study conducted by Willow Creek Association¹ found that **people who felt dissatisfied with their churches pointed to weakness in Biblical teaching as a primary reason.**

55% were dissatisfied with how weekend services in their churches incorporate relevant Bible teaching to help them with everyday life.

54% did not find services sufficiently challenging and thought provoking.

53% said weekend services in their churches failed to provide in-depth study of the Bible.

Amazingly, these criticisms came in roughly equal measure from people who have not yet received Christ, from growing believers, and from Christ-centered Christians!

People come to church in order to hear from God.

They don't want to hear:

- The pastor's opinions.
- A summary of a new book (even a really good book!).
- A sermon that only "flirts" with the Biblical text.

People want to leave church feeling:

- "God spoke to my heart today through His Word."
- "The pastor explained that Bible passage in a way made real sense to me. And I am determined to do something about it!"
- "I understand more about the Bible now than before today's service, and I'm ready for more!"

In an effort to be relevant, many pastors are feeding their people what I call "Bible light." The result is "light-weight Christians." Healthy churches teach the Word of God in a way that changes lives, and that prepares Christ-followers to change their worlds.

Hungry people continually search for a good meal. The same holds for spiritually hungry people. Pastors, be certain you are serving savory solid food that really satisfies the soul.

Dale

¹ *Follow Me* (Willow Creek Association, 2008), p. 95.