

By Rob Bell

Have you ever attended a church service out of sense of duty or because you think you're supposed to?

When it comes to church, what do you think God has in mind?

Matthew 23:1-7

1Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: 2"The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. 3So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. 4They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

5"Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; 6they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; 7they love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have men call them 'Rabbi.'

How much time do you spend worrying about what other people think of you?

Matthew 23:13

13"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.

Is it possible to be interested in the Christian faith but turned off by Christianity?

The number of Americans who don't go to church has mushroomed from 39 million to 75 million since 1991 – representing more than one-third of the U.S. adult population and a 92 percent increase (Barna Research Group)

Does God need us to attend a church service once or twice a week? Why or why not?

# NOOMA Sunday

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Isaiah 1:2-3

2 Hear, O heavens! Listen, O earth!

For the LORD has spoken:

"I reared children and brought them up,  
but they have rebelled against me.

3 The ox knows his master,  
the donkey his owner's manger,  
but Israel does not know,  
my people do not understand."

How do we know that God has our hearts, and that we're not just going through the motions?

Have you been part of the show? What issues in our world today do you think God really cares about? What are you doing about them?

What does it mean for our hearts to start beating more and more like God's? How could this change the way the world sees Christianity?

The phones seen in each restaurant booth are used to place food orders directly to the kitchen.

