

What every Pastor wants to say ...but doesn't want to be e-mailed, tarred and feathered and run out of town

## ***Excuses for not being apart of the family of God on Sundays***

**Sabbath breaking ... also known as the #1 reason in America for backsliding**

- ☐ I am dead – the morgue will not let me out
- ☐ I have the plague
- ☐ I am in the hospital
- ☐ I have walking pneumonia
- ☐ I am vomiting blood
- ☐ Enflamed Hemorrhoids
- ☐ Extremely bad diarrhea
- ☐ I have running sores and am contagious
- ☐ Childbirth
- ☐ I flew off the roof and broke my foot
- ☐ I got in wreck on the way to church
- ☐ Abducted by aliens

"Legitimate excuses, but we could still pray for you to be raised from the dead if your next of kin want us to"

The names are being withheld to protect the guilty

Please note this is not a real chicken pastor, but a professional actor impersonating one



### **Oh Yea:**

- ☐ I slept in
- ☐ The alarm clock didn't go off
- ☐ Wife/husband didn't wake me
- ☐ Headache
- ☐ Lost my car keys
- ☐ Ran out of gas
- ☐ It's Thanksgiving, Christmas, New years, Memorial Day weekend, Labor Day weekend, Martin Luther King's birthday, Mothers day, Fathers day.

### **Work:**

- ☐ I had to work – I have to make a living
- ☐ I work graveyard
- ☐ I work swing shift
- ☐ I am a single parent and I can't get ready in time
- ☐ I have a booth at the auction
- ☐ I work six days a week and Sunday is the only day for me.

### **Sports & Recreation:**

- ☐ Its football, basketball, baseball, soccer, hockey season
- ☐ My team is playing;
- ☐ It's the play offs
- ☐ NASCAR
- ☐ The Winter/Summer Olympics is only around every four years
- ☐ I bought season tickets
- ☐ I bought a boat
- ☐ It was such a nice day I decided to go for a drive
- ☐ My kids are in sports
- ☐ The recorder didn't work and I had to see my show
- ☐ I need my recreation.
- ☐ I am on vacation (for three months?)



### **Lame brain Christian doctrines & oddball ideas:**

- ☐ I don't think we should be religious about it
- ☐ You should not go to church too much
- ☐ I was forced to go as a kid
- ☐ I don't think you should force your kids to go – they should make up their own minds
- ☐ I think the church is too traditional
- ☐ I don't believe in organized church
- ☐ Anytime I meet a Christian in Safeway it is church
- ☐ I can have church in my home
- ☐ I had pillow meditations with Pastor Sheets
- ☐ It is under the law!
- ☐ "Hey, get it right! it is Christianity not Churchianity"
- ☐ Too many hypocrites in church!

### **Pets:**

- ☐ We have a new puppy
- ☐ Dogs bark when we are gone and it annoys the neighbors
- ☐ I have to feed the horses
- ☐ Horses got out of the corral
- ☐ Puppy is sick
- ☐ Dog is constipated
- ☐ Dog swallowed my car keys – we're going to hitchhike to the vet
- ☐ Cat has diarrhea
- ☐ Cat had kittens

Isaiah 58:13-14 "If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath,  
From doing your pleasure on My holy day,  
**And call the Sabbath a delight,**  
The holy day of the Lord honorable,  
And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways,  
Nor finding your own pleasure,  
Nor speaking your own words,  
14 Then you shall delight yourself in the Lord;  
And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth,  
And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father.  
The mouth of the Lord has spoken."

This is the last time I ever eat those Ex-Lax brownies on the counter!!



- ☐ My cat was alarmed at my sleep-talking and jumped off the bed, knocked my alarm off the dresser, of which the batteries fell out; And I overslept.
- ☐ My cat is lonely and stressed out and if I don't spend quality time with him, he will keep peeing on the furniture!"
- ☐ We have skunks mating under our house.

### Weak:

- ☐ The weather is too cold or too hot
- ☐ It's snowing
- ☐ It's raining
- ☐ It's a full moon
- ☐ It is too hard driving more than 10 minutes to church
- ☐ My car is broke down and I didn't want to ask someone to pick me up
- ☐ We had to leave early Sunday morning to go on vacation
- ☐ My spouse did not want to go – I can't go without him/her
- ☐ I needed some time alone

### Lame:

- ☐ I forgot it was Sunday
- ☐ Daylight savings time
- ☐ It is too nice a day
- ☐ We had a yard sale
- ☐ I had a bad dream
- ☐ Eye problems – I can't see coming to church

### Beyond Lame:

- ☐ Hangover
- ☐ Agoraphobia (fear of leaving the house) is kicking in and I am afraid to drive today.
- ☐ I have nothing to wear
- ☐ She/he made me late so I decided I would rather not come than be late
- ☐ I believe in being balanced
- ☐ There was a sale on
- ☐ I got burned out by being involved too much in previous church 20 years ago, so now I don't do anything, and only come to church when I want to.
- ☐ I am not scheduled for anything at church so I decided to stay home

### Home:

- ☐ I need to clean the house
- ☐ I had to mow the lawn
- ☐ I have projects around the house
- ☐ We are remodeling the house
- ☐ This is the only day the contractor could be there
- ☐ Laundry hasn't been done in a month

### Attitudes:

- ☐ I don't want to!
- ☐ I am offended by someone at church
- ☐ I don't think anybody likes me
- ☐ I don't like being around people
- ☐ I am a hermit
- ☐ PMS.- "What are you going to do about it?!"
- ☐ I don't like to be expected to go
- ☐ I am depressed
- ☐ I was out of it
- ☐ Last Sunday you directed your sermon toward me
- ☐ I think you intended this article for me.
- ☐ Are you the Pentecostal police?
- ☐ I shouldn't have to give a reason for this stupid survey
- ☐ My wife nags me about going so I am going to stay home, pout and play with my toys

### Family:

- ☐ I needed to spend time with my wife
- ☐ I needed to spend time with my kids
- ☐ Child is home from college
- ☐ Family comes first!
- ☐ Family visiting from out of town and they don't like to go to church
- ☐ Friends are staying at our house and we feel obligated to entertain them
- ☐ It is my birthday, kid's birthday, spouse's birthday, mothers/dads birthday
- ☐ Family reunion
- ☐ It is my anniversary
- ☐ My spouse was sick and needed me home (to hold the remote)
- ☐ My husband didn't want me to go and I felt I should be submissive to him (when I want to) and stay home
- ☐ My wife didn't want me to go and I felt I should be sensitive to her needs (and although I won't admit it publicly – she rules the roost)
- ☐ We got into a fight on the way to church and decided not to come.

**The world is sleeping in the dark  
That the church just can't fight  
Cause it's asleep in the light  
How can you be so dead  
When you've been so well fed  
Jesus rose from the grave  
And you, you can't even get out of bed**

**Oh, Jesus rose from the dead  
Come on, get out of your bed**

**-- Keith Green (Lyrics from "Asleep in the Light")**



**Isn't it amazing we are  
encouraged to live the 10  
Commandments, but we  
ignore the 4<sup>th</sup> one?**

Exodus 20:8 Remember the  
Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Leviticus 23:3 (NIV) "There are six  
days when you may work, but the  
seventh day is a Sabbath of rest,  
a day of sacred assembly.

## Spiritual:

- ☐ I don't feel lead
- ☐ Jesus understands
- ☐ The Lord knows my heart
- ☐ I watched Kenneth Copeland on television
- ☐ Jesus is with me every where I go
- ☐ I feel closer to God in nature
- ☐ I have heard that topic preached before-don't need to hear it again
- ☐ Best one I have ever heard: "Jesus told me to stay home and spend time with Him".



Nehemiah 13:11 So I contended with the rulers, and said, "Why is the house of God forsaken?" And I gathered them together and set them in their place.

Psalm 26:8 Lord, I have loved the habitation of Your house, And the place where Your glory dwells.

Psalm 42:4 For I used to go with the multitude; I went with them to the house of God, With the voice of joy and praise, With a multitude that kept a pilgrim feast.

Psalm 84:2 My soul longs, yes, even faints For the courts of the Lord; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

Psalm 84:10 For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Psalm 92:13 Those who are planted in the house of the Lord Shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Psalm 122:1 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord."

Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Mark 4:19 "and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Mark 12:28-30 Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?"

29 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

30 'And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

Luke 4:16 So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom (habit) was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.

Acts 20:7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul ... preached to them

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

There's an old story about a woman whose husband overslept for church. She tries to gently wake him, but he is uncooperative.

"Give me three good reasons I should get out of this warm bed," he demands.

"First," she says with folded arms, "I'm your wife and you should respect my wishes."

"Second," she says whispering piously, "God wants you to go to church."

"Finally," she exclaims, "You're the pastor, and I think the congregation is expecting a sermon!"



## Seven days without fellowship makes one Weak!

*There are 52 Sundays in a year. Treasure, honor and worship God on each one of them.*

As part of his transformation, Sylvester Stallone realized another poor choice that had guided his previous life: self-reliance. "You need to have the expertise and the guidance of someone else," he said. "You cannot train yourself. I feel the same way about Christianity and about what the church is: **The church is the gym of the soul.**"

Stuart Shepard, "The gym of the Soul, Citizenlink.com (11-15-06)

## Do You Have a Reason Or an Excuse?

Most pastors will readily admit that one of the reasons, if not the chief reasons, why Christianity today is failing or unable to have a tremendous impact for the cause of Christ is due to a neglect of the local church by those who claim to know the Lord. The fact is the majority of church members do not attend church anymore. It is all too common for a church to have two or three times as many members on the church roll than it has in attendance on a Sunday morning. They have been aptly called, "the missing majority."

When you study the Scriptures concerning the New Testament church, you find out that this was not always the case. I am sure that each church had its share of shirkers who had their patented excuses for not attending but for the most part the majority of church members were present for the services. They believed it then, and most people today profess to believe that every saved, blood-bought child of God should attend church faithfully, on a regular basis; that they should never miss a church service unless providentially hindered. The problem though with today's church members is that they have confused the issue of having a reason as opposed to giving an excuse for not attending church. There is a vast difference between the two; a reason and an excuse. According to the Bible, there is no excuse for not attending church.

By Dean Robinson in "There's No Excuse"