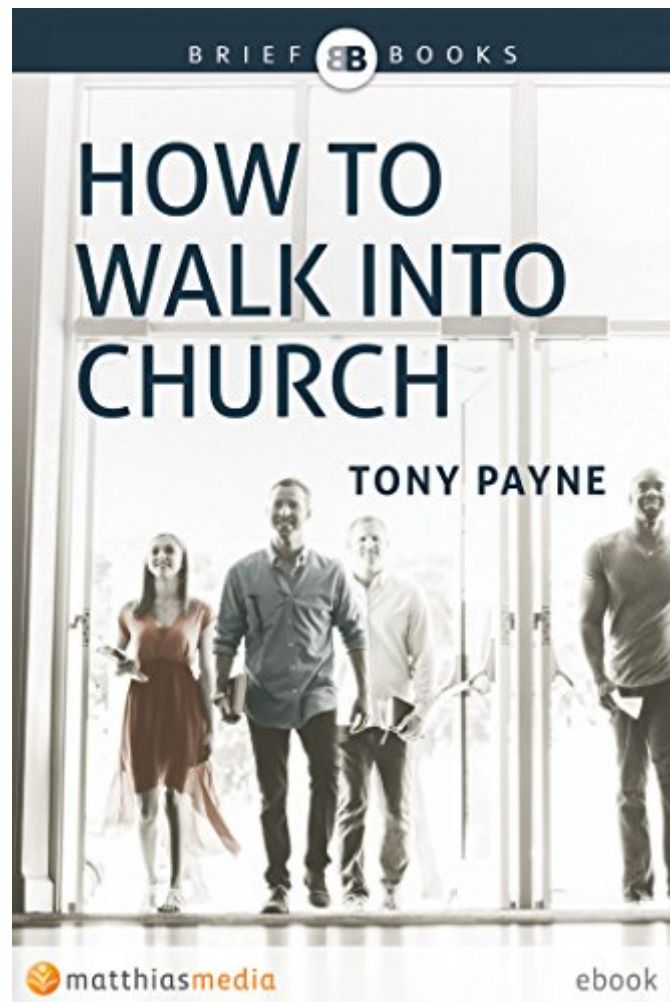


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How To Walk Into Church



Synopsis

If you've been a churchgoer for more than just a few Sundays, walking into church probably doesn't seem like it deserves its own 'how to' manual. Right? In fact, it most likely seems like a pretty straightforward and trivial weekly activity. But things are rarely as simple as they seem, and how you walk into church reveals a great deal about what you think church is, what it's for, and what you think you're doing there. In *How to Walk into Church*, Tony Payne helps us think biblically about church. Along with giving plenty of other practical advice, he suggests a way to walk into church that beautifully expresses what church is and why you're there - a way that every Christian can master. If you go to church, this Brief Book is for you. This book is a great idea. It's wonderfully practical, helpful, and relevant. I hope we can give it away to our new members. Tony has given us a necessary reminder on the importance of walking into church with the right heart, the right head, and the right spirit. ~ Kevin DeYoung Senior Pastor, University Reformed Church (East Lansing, Michigan, USA) This outstanding book is packed with profound reflection on what church is and practical application of what it means to 'go to church'. I hope every member of St Helen's reads it - it will do us a world of good. ~ William Taylor St Helen's Bishopsgate, London *How to Walk into Church* is so clear, so simple, so straightforward, so practical - and so eternally important! As such, it is a brief must-read for all Christians, and not only for today's "My thumb is always out for a better ride" church hitch-hikers, but for those who find attending church to be a mundane option. ~ R. Kent Hughes Senior Pastor Emeritus, College Church Wheaton Sometimes the simplest things are the easiest to overlook - things like walking into church. How do you walk into church? If you read this little book, I believe you will think about it a lot differently and you will do it a lot better. ~ Tim Challies www.challies.com This is an immensely useful and relevant book. Short, clear, but one that engages with deep theology in practical ways. And although it is obvious there is much more that could be said about church, imagine if everyone lived out the implications of what Tony does unpack? Our gatherings as God's people would be beautiful and powerful. ~ Andrew Heard Senior Pastor, EV Church, Erina For most of us our churchgoing - whether regular, occasional, or non-existent - is just an unconsidered part of life. It's something we do, or sometimes do, or rarely do, or never do. But not something we think about so that we might do it with an aim, a purpose, a real intentionality. This clear and engaging book will be a real and practical help. I have myself been challenged by it and hope it will be widely read. ~ Christopher Ash Author of "Listen Up!" Director of Cornhill Training Course If you want to cultivate an ethos of disciple-making, God-centered fellowship, prayer and love for fellow believers, this is a great and valuable resource to put into the hands of all your people. It is clear and practical, encouraging for the mature and challenging for

new believers.~ Steven Lee Pastor of Small Groups & Community Outreach College Church Wheaton
What if church were about someone other than me? In his characteristically accessible and clear writing style, Tony challenges us with a biblical answer to this important question. It's my hope that fellow-pastors and their congregations will read this book and begin to 'walk into church' with more intentionality than ever before. May God bless these efforts for his glory and the good of all people.~ Ben Cuthbert Associate Pastor for Evangelism & Discipleship South Church, Lansing

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Customer Reviews

How do you walk into church? This question doesn't seek to address your walking style, how many kids' noses you are wiping as you cross your church's threshold, or how you have on your "Sunday best." What author Tony Payne is getting at in his brief 64-page book *How to Walk into Church* are core issues like "What is church?" and "What is my place in it?" (10). Our answers to these two questions form a mindset that will govern all of our conversations and activities in church; from greeting the greeterâ to choosing a pewâ to conversations scattered throughout your time on Sunday morningâ to what we do before and after attending a church service. One of the lies Payne

seeks to shatter in this short and accessible book is that ministry is for paid church staff and not the everyday attender. This book is a practical guide to how every church attender can minister on Sunday mornings (or whenever their church gathers). Chapters include what church is, our role in church, the before, during, and after of church attendance, and how church doesn't ever "end" (among other chapters). As is so often the case, Tony Payne makes his vision painfully easy to implement by sharing practical tips we can all put into practice. Here are a few examples:--Payne recommends to pray about where to sit as you walk into church, which shows we are "trusting that what we do at church really matters; that God has something important for us to do" in particular, someone he wants us to sit next to, talk with, listen to, pray for and encourage." (13)--When you meet a new person, look for them in future weeks and seek to reconnect and help them get plugged in.

I do it three times every week: Every Sunday morning, every Sunday evening, and every Wednesday evening I walk into church. Sometimes I walk into church eager and full of expectation; sometimes I walk into church grudgingly and grumpy; sometimes I walk into church sick or sorrowful. But week after week I do it. And I attach very little significance to it. In the opening pages of his little book *How To Walk Into Church*, Tony Payne describes the common experience: "I suppose it must have happened upwards of 2000 times by now. I exit the car, usually with a wife and various kids in tow, and amble in the front door, tossing off a quick greeting to whomever is handing out the folded sheets of paper that in church-speak are called "bulletins". After a quick scan of the seating situation "who has already parked themselves where, who I might want to avoid and so on" I choose a spot not too near the front and sidle into the chosen row, smiling feebly at the person sitting on the other side of the seat that I've politely left vacant between us. And there it is. I've walked into church. Not exactly a taxing or impressive feat, and hardly worthy of having a book written about it, even a very short book like this. "But things are rarely as simple as they seem. No, things are rarely that simple. Many of the mundane and repetitive tasks that fill our lives have outsized importance: Walking into your home at the end of a long day's work, saying goodnight to your children, participating in family devotions "these are little things but significant things, just like walking into church. After all, "How you walk into church will be determined by what you think church is, and what you think you're doing there.

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