

Swim Time

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What do you think of when you think of going swimming? Everyone seems to have their own idea. Some people want to go to the beach, while others prefer a pool. One person wants to jump in, but others prefer to wade in gradually. Others prefer to stay out of the water and watch others play in the water. One person has the idea of drifting on a float in the water, while a child's idea may involve a cannonball contest.

I prefer a pool over the beach. I don't like having to deal with the sand, and I would really rather not have to worry about rinsing the salt water off after I am done swimming. To me, chlorine is easier to deal with. Also, I generally like to just jump in and cool off quickly after mowing the yard, then drift around the pool on a float.

I have decided that people have the same philosophy about church. Some people prefer to jump right in and become involved in all of the activities they can. Other people want to get in, but they are afraid to. Some people have to be pushed or thrown in. There are those who want to make a big splash, but they really don't do much else. Some people enjoy the games, but others just want to sort of drift from one part to another. Some people prefer to work around the outside, but really don't want to get in.

What is interesting to me is that all of these exist together very well. Just as at a pool, you will have all of these things going on at once, you will also find them co-existing in a church. Some people want to be involved in the choir, while others prefer not to. Some will be active in Bible Study, but another person may prefer to get involved in only social activities. One person may be inclined to get involved with children, while another enjoys working with older people.

Just as at a pool, you may find other activities going on, such as a cookout or a game of horse-shoes, at church you will find many other events happening that are easily associated with church, but which could stand alone, if need be. Some of these are activities such as community service projects. People volunteer in shelters or places for underprivileged people. Many of these things as part of "para-church" organizations. These are groups that may have some religious affiliation, but they are not necessarily church run groups.

Other people enjoy many of the social interactions of the church community or even youth groups, but they aren't really interested in all of the activities of the church. Each person has to find their own comfort zone for activity level. Some people will want to jump right in, other will wade in gradually. Regardless, let me encourage you to come on in. The water is great!

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.