

New Love New Mercy

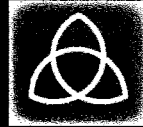
The latest stewardship emphasis from Ken Madama and Mark I. Vincent is now available.

Whether in particular for a Lenten emphasis, *New Love, New Mercy* draws from the book of Lamentations to point Christian people to God's extensive grace and our response through good times and hard.

The material includes bible study material, worship service ideas, and a song written by Ken Madama. The \$20 purchase price allows congregations to make up to 50 copies for all materials.

Buy this resource by

calling 877.771.1830.



Depth Perception

Commentary from Design For Ministry™

Even More Excuses to Leave Church

Last October we published some of the more ridiculous reasons we have heard people utter for leaving a congregation. We invited our readers to submit some of their own. We print these recognizing that there are many good reasons to leave a congregation—chief among them when they feel sent in mission to another community, perhaps to plant a church or because their faith journey is moving them along. In such cases, there would be no cause for anxiety about talking with the community they are leaving about the why of it. In fact, that congregation would likely want to bless the departure, perhaps with a commissioning of some sort.

But all too often leaving is simply the act of a consumer switching brands, as if a church is a commodity rather than a building block of family and community, a community of covenant if you will.

Here are 10 additional excuses. At first read, some may seem funny. Think about them a bit and they seem sad. We thank those of you who submitted them.

10. You say "Redemption" while I prefer "Sanctification."

9. I plowed the church parking lot for years for a discount. The church was ungrateful and switched to a cheaper competitor.

8. I won't sing songs that are projected on a wall.

7. A new church opened up the street and we want to try it out.

6. The seven bible studies currently offered by my congregation do not currently include an emphasis on the Holy Spirit. I conclude from this that we don't really worship God and that our pastors are leading us astray.

5. I can't worship before 11:30 in the morning on Sundays.

4. I can't worship at a church that doesn't get me home on time for the noon kickoff during football season.

3. There are too many old people (young people).

2. Any church I attend must have a baptismal or it isn't a real church.

1. Sunday morning is the only day our son has time to play with his toys, so we decided to stay home and not go to church anymore.

-mark I vincent