

# Where Do You Fit In?

Dub McClish

I made my first attempt at preaching in 1954. This is not any kind of record, but it has given me a backlog of considerable experience from which some reliable observations may be drawn. I have observed that there are at least six spiritual levels to be found within any local church. Shall we engage in some self-examination?

1. **The deserter.** Such a person has utterly quit the church. They are not bashful about it, but openly criticizes the church and does not want anything to do with it. They will not allow anyone to talk to them about it. In spite of the fact that their allegiance is openly to the world, they often continue to be listed in local church directories.
2. **The hanger-on.** This member has "quit the church," practically speaking. He/she may attend Sunday morning worship only a few times a year, but they want their names in the church directory. They know all of the excuses for not worshipping regularly, giving liberally, and doing their part of the work.
3. **The spasmodic.** This person is hot as a pistol for a while, but then is cold as a cucumber. Such may zealously work for a few months, but not consistently. Just when they really get involved, he becomes offended or disinterested and drops out. He can't be depended upon.
4. **The sampler.** These people just sort of nibble at religion. They dabble in it somewhat like a hobby, picking it up when they have nothing better to do. No need to worry about them becoming offended – they never personally apply the teachings of Scripture enough to take offense.
5. **The performer.** Their religious "commitment" is for sake of appearance. Some of them never miss a meeting and may even give quite generously. Such are good at seeing what "the church" needs to be doing, but they're not about to do any of it. Many in this level are known to be hypocrites between Sundays.
6. **The trooper.** These are consistent, the same on Monday – Saturday as Sunday. When there's work to be done you know they'll do their part. The church grows because of them. Thank God for them, and may they multiply.

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