



# SANCTUARY ETIQUETTE

The Central Baptist Church is an uplifting community in Christ. We are growing and need to be intentional about our worship. Here are a few church etiquette tips that can help current members and newcomers appreciate and benefit from the worship service.

1. **Do not bring food or drink into the sanctuary.** Do not bring in cups of coffee. Liquids for infants and toddlers are permissible.
2. **Men take your hats off.** It is impolite for a man to wear a hat into church.
3. **Do not chew gum in church.** Chewing gum is distracting and disrespectful in a house of worship.
4. **Dress modestly and appropriately.** This is a house of worship.
5. **Do not use cell phones during worship for calls, emails or texting.** Turn off or silence your phone and other electronic devices.
6. **Make a habit of arriving at church a few minutes early.** Many legitimate reasons exist for arriving late. Therefore, begin heading for church 10 to 15 minutes earlier than normal. It is a courtesy to everyone to arrive on time and a distraction to everyone to arrive late. This is a house of worship.
7. **Do not sit on the end of the pew if you sit down before others.** Take a seat in the middle of the pew so others do not have to climb over you. Gentlemen should offer their seats to ladies, the elderly, and disabled if they are standing and have no seat.
8. **Offer visitors seats in rows other than the front row.** Few people wish to sit on the front row at church and visitors may feel especially uncomfortable on the front row. Please consider giving up your "usual seat" and sit in the front row.
9. **Sit quietly while in church.** Once you enter the sanctuary, it is not the time or place to visit with the people around you. If you must talk, please do so as quietly and briefly as possible. Remember, your conversation might be disturbing someone who is in prayer. This is a house of worship.
10. **Quickly attend to crying babies and noisy children.** We cannot control when babies or toddlers will have a bad day. When babies or toddlers become irritable, please take them outside of the sanctuary to the front lobby, restroom, or downstairs to the nursery. Come back into the sanctuary as soon as you can. Do not be embarrassed, we love you and your children. This is a house of worship.
11. **Participation.** Always participate in the prayers and the hymns. We are all an important part of the worship service.

12. **Hospitality.** Always greet new people that you see at church. Go out of your way to make them feel welcome and find ways to help them feel comfortable.
13. **Bathroom Use.** Try to use the bathroom before service begins. Avoid walking around during Scripture readings and prayers. Walking around during the hymn-singing, while everyone is already standing, is more appropriate. This is a house of worship.
14. **Do not leave early.** Stay in the worship service to receive the benediction. The benediction is a short prayer at the end of the service in which the pastor or preacher bestows God's blessing upon you for the coming days. The "leaving early culprit" causes you to be disrespectful and robs you of God's blessing.