Putting in their hour or two on the weekend, many Christians take the rest of the week off, neglecting the church and her needs. It’s not a serious relationship. Some shop around, looking for a church that suits their lifestyle. It’s dating, with no assurances, no obligations. Bestselling author Joshua Harris calls Christians to stop playing the field and commit, just as Christ is committed to us, His bride. In his new book, Harris explores the ramifications of Ephesians 5:25–32, which proclaims the intensity and the breadth of Jesus Christ’s love for His church. God has designed us to build our lives around a local church; we cannot be indifferent or uninvolved. Rather, we must be in love with and committed to God’s plan and purpose through the church. Are you dating the church, or are you committed?
Are You Dating the Church?

We are a generation of consumers, independent and critical. We attend church, but we don't want to settle down and truly invest ourselves. We're not into commitment — we only want to date the church.

Is this what God wants for us?

Stop Dating the Church reminds us that faith was never meant to be a solo pursuit. The church is the place God grows us, encourages us, and uses us best. Loving Jesus Christ involves a passionate commitment to His church — around the world and down the street.

We can't be apathetic. It's time to fall in love with the family of God.

Story Behind the Book

Like all my books, this one is very closely tied to my own journey. I've been a church-dater. And I've learned just how good it is to get serious about the church. I want to see my generation get a hold of God's purpose and plan for the local church, too. The same month this book is released I'll become the senior pastor of my church. This awesome responsibility is being passed on to me by my mentor, C. J. Mahaney, a pastor who has faithfully served for over 26 years. So this book is marking a very important transition in my life. The church isn't some other generation's responsibility—it isn't somebody else's business. I have to take responsibility. I have to be passionate and committed to it. Through the pages of this book, I'm calling my generation to do the same.

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Personal Review: Stop Dating the Church!: Fall in Love with the Family of God (Lifechange Books) by Joshua Harris

Joshua Harris, in the past, has been writing on relationships, particularly those of single dating relationships. In I Kissed Dating Goodbye, he presents the case that single people should not be involved in "directionless relationships that were romantic and physical." In this book, his message is similar but with a different focus and context—the local church. His message is simple: "stop treating the local church frivolously with no intentions of moving forward towards a commitment." The problem of church-daters: me-centered and critical.

In chapter one, Harris is keen to identify the reasons that have made a real and honest commitment to the church impossible: 1) We treat the church with a consumer mentality. We want the "best product for the price of Sunday morning." 2) We are disillusioned with the church.

In chapter two, Harris puts the church in perspective, viz. heavenly perspective, through an exposition of Eph 5:25-32. The interesting observation that Harris makes about this passage is the dynamic relationship between the husband and wife, which correlates with Christ and the church. This is the profound mystery found in God's undying pursuit of the church. As explained in Eph 3:9-11, the heavenly rulers look down in awe of this magnificent display of glory.

In chapter three is the explanation for why we need the church. Spurgeon puts it simply: "not joining the church is disobedience." There are three ordinances that a church is called to keep: baptism, Lord's Supper, and discipline. The church is called to grow together as a community with its identification of these ordinances. John Piper's take: "Sanctification is a community project." Mark Dever's one-liner: "If you are not a member of the church your regularly attend, you may well be going to hell." Dever's point is not that everyone should be on a church roster, but rather his purpose to emphasize the local church as the place where our life in Christ is lived out.

Harris makes this point clear: "Only when you and I reject self-centeredness, prideful independence, and a critical spirit can the beauty of the local church come into focus."

In chapter four, Harris offers seven key points to what joining a church means.

In chapter five are ten questions for choosing the "right" church.

The last two chapters provide some concrete steps for getting out of the trappings of cynicism towards a healthy relationship with a local church.
Overall, Harris' insights are provocative to spur any Christian disenchanted with the local body to reconsider the implications of committing to the church in a new and profound way.

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
Stop Dating the Church!: Fall in Love with the Family of God (Lifechange Books) by Joshua Harris 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!