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13 Ways to Recognize the Overlooked People in Your Church

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We've all had the experience of attending a new church where we don't know anyone. It can be intimidating whether the church is small or large. You're the new person, and everyone seems to know each other and gravitate into groups before or after church, so you might just slip in and out on a Sunday morning unnoticed. Many people have done this for years and miss the joys of fellowshiping and serving with fellow believers. When I took a survey to see how churches might address the issue of overlooked people, few had any suggestions of what their church was doing beyond having friendly greeters. While the central purpose of attending church is to worship and hear the Word preached, it's also a means of connecting with other members of the church family. When people don't sense a welcoming atmosphere or feel overlooked, they'll usually leave. Some people even become adverse to church entirely because of a bad experience or a church that feels cliquy or unfriendly. Others will keep searching and hopefully ultimately realize they need to also make an effort to become connected. Let's look at how the church, and we as congregants, can recognize the overlooked people in our churches and help them feel welcome and valued. Photo Credit: ©iStock/Getty Images Plus/Keith Lance?

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