

Running head: EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT

**Emotional Attachment to One's Church as Indexed by Strength of
Agreement of Participants Regarding the Decision to Stay with or Leave
a Church for Various Reasons**

Laura Maiolo

Olivet Nazarene University

Abstract

The purpose of this experiment was to determine the degree of emotional attachment _____ Nazarene University students have to their churches based on their strength of agreement with a family's decision regarding leaving their church. In addition, the study attempted to determine if the participant's gender made a difference in regard to their strength of agreement with the family's decision. The participants consisted of 85 _____ Nazarene University students (27 males and 58 females) who participated in the experiment in exchange for extra course credit. Participants were randomly assigned to one of six factorial conditions where they were asked to read a scenario about a family who needed to make a decision regarding leaving their church. The six scenarios were identical in every respect except for the changes necessary to manipulate the two independent variables. One of the two independent variables was the reason for considering leaving. These reasons included a theological issue, a problem in the children's program, or a job change. The other independent variable was the decision, in which the family had to decide to either leave or stay with their church. After reading the appropriate scenario, participants were asked to rate their strength of agreement regarding the family's decision to stay or leave the church, which would be an indicator of their degree of emotional attachment. It was hypothesized that there would be a stronger degree of emotional attachment found in the females than the males. A 2 x 3 between groups factorial analysis of variance was conducted on these data and found no effect for the reason for considering leaving the church on the strength of agreement ratings. However, for females it was found that the strength of agreement ratings for the decision made were higher for staying rather than leaving the church, while for males there was no effect for decision. Indirectly these results show that women are more emotionally attached to their church than men. Finally, there was an interaction between the two independent variables with stronger support for staying with the church when it came to a problem in the children's program. Overall these results show that females are more in favor of staying with the church and are more emotionally attached than males.

Emotional Attachment to One's Church as Indexed by Strength of Agreement of Participants Regarding the Decision to Stay with or Leave a Church for Various Reasons

The concept of capital can be used in many different ways. It is commonly referred to in the business world as an asset that adds to the long-term net worth of a corporation (Merriam-Webster). This shows us that capital is anything that adds value to the corporation or organization. Any company or business needs a certain amount of capital to function. Although monetary capital is essential to any business there are other forms of capital that are necessary within the business world.

Organizations have positions to fill that require various skills, knowledge, and experience that make up a different kind of capital referred to as social capital (Portes and Sensenbrenner, 1993). For example, my Dad has been working as a machinist for 35 years. Before he got hired at his current job, he came in with years of experience, knowledge, and skills that you cannot find in just anyone. My Dad is considered an asset to his company because of the amount of capital he brings to it. Due to the amount of capital my dad has, he is a valuable part to his company. Some people possess more capital (required skills) than others, and sometimes organizations want people that already have lots of capital. Other times, organizations provide opportunities for their members/employees to grow capital. For instance, with an internship, one is provided the opportunity to learn new skills and gain knowledge of how an organization functions.

Social capital is integrated within the church as well. In the church people bring many different things that can add value. Fukuyama (1995) defines social capital as, "the ability of people to work together for common purposes in groups and organizations."

The church, as an organization, is called to work together for the same purposes. The apostle Paul makes this evident when he discusses the topic of spiritual gifts. Paul reminds the Corinthians that the spiritual gifts they have been blessed with come from the same Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 says, “The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they are from one body” (NIV). The Lord created each of us with a purpose, and each of us has some degree of capital to bring to the church. As the Lord calls us to invest our capital within the church, it is important to note that investment requires time.

Stark and Finke (2000) define a type of capital that is gained through investment of time. This type of capital is referred to as religious capital. According to these authors religious capital is “the degree of mastery of and attachment to a particular religious culture” (Stark and Finke, 2000, p.120). Finke (2003) explains “mastery of” as familiarity within the church. This means understanding the traditions, history, music, scripture, and even sarcasm. Stark goes on to explain that with understanding the ins-and-outs of the church, religious capital consists of emotional attachments that build over a lifetime. Emotional attachments consist of experiences, prayers, and miracles that all contribute to the biography of an individual. Finke goes on to say that one needs to have this emotional attachment, in order to “fully appreciate” a religion. Both “mastery of” and emotional attachments to a religion are the very things that will help to build greater religious capital, and make it less likely for an individual to re-affiliate or convert with another religion. Being that religious capital is significant to the church, it is vital that it is researched, so that we as a body can help further the church as a whole. Two

components that may correlate to religious capital are the attendance of males versus females in the church and the biological make-up of the male and female brain.

Research shows that there are more females than males in the church (Barna Research 2000). Research also shows that females are more emotional and relational beings than are males (Eapen, 2008). These two significant phenomena are what have guided this research project.

Recent research has shown a decline in the attendance of males at church (Barna Research 2000). According to Barna Research (2000) there is a group of researchers and sociologists in Louisville, Kentucky who have surveyed several denominations across the United States and found that more women (61%) were in the church pews on a Sunday morning than men (39%). On any given Sunday, statistics show that there are 13 million more adult women than men in America's churches. Recent research shows that "70% of the boys who are being raised in church will abandon it during their teens and twenties" (LifeWay Research, 2007). These statistics are serious. Several times in the bible it is emphasized that men are to be the spiritual leaders in our homes. 1 Corinthians 11:3 says, "But understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a woman is her husband, and the head of Christ is God." Also, in Ephesians 5:22-23 it says, "Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. As the Church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands." As I begin to understand these verses it is evident to me that men are called to be the spiritual leaders of our families. Yet the statistics show that a majority of men are not living up to what the Lord calls them to.

Further research shows that females are more connected relationally and emotionally than males. Due to advancements in technology scientists have been able to research the anatomy of the male and female brain, and have found significant differences. A research group from the School of Communication Disorders, University of Sydney, Australia, found differences in the brain in the areas of Wernicke and Broca. “The volume of Wernicke’s area was 18% larger in females compared with males, and the cortical volume of Broca’s area in females was 20% larger than in males” (Schlaepfer, Harris, Tien, Peng, and Pearlson, 1995). Wernicke and Broca’s areas both deal with language and speech. This result significantly impacts the way men and women are different emotionally. According to Eapen, (2008) because women are more verbally inclined, they are more likely to express their emotions. Women communicate easier and are more likely to be open with their emotions, while men like to keep their feelings to themselves and amongst a small group of select people. Men are less intense with their emotions and they use less emotional language. Women use 20,000 words per day, whereas men use 7,000 words per day (Lee and Owens, 2002). All of these differences between males and females correlate with the way males and females respond emotionally.

It is important to note that it is not how different the brains are, but how differently we use our brains (Eapen, 2008). According to family psychologist, Micheal Conner (1999), females are more dominate than males with the right side of their brain, which has been referred to as the “emotional radar” side. Women have this ability due to the greater amount of connective tissue females have between the right and left hemisphere. Contrary to females, most males are left brain dominant. This is due to the

“masculinizing effects of testosterone during a male’s first three months as a fetus, which causes the connective tissue of males to be less than it is in women” (Conner, 1999).

What do all of these statistics and facts have to do with religious capital? As stated before, religious capital is, “the degree of mastery of and attachment to a particular religious culture” (Stark and Finke, 2000, p.120). Stark emphasizes the importance of being emotionally attached to your church. I am fearful, because I have looked through the Nazarene archives and have not found any documents expressing concern over the matter of less males in the church. The purpose of this study was to determine if there is a difference in the emotional attachment of males versus females to their church. The statistics above suggest a lack of emotional attachment of males to their churches, and are a direct implication that males are not fulfilling the leadership roles in their families. Males are called to be spiritual leaders...the leaders of our homes. Due to the importance scripture places on this role of leadership for males I decided to conduct a 2 x 3 between groups factorial analysis of the emotional attachment of males versus females.

To accomplish this goal I used six different scenarios to indirectly assess the emotional attachment of the participants. The scenarios were about a family who were presented with a reason for them to consider leaving their church, and in the end a decision was made by that family. Following the scenarios was a list of four statements, in which the participants had to rate their strength of agreement on a 1-7 scale, with 1 being strongly disagree and 7 being strongly agree. If the participants gave a higher rating to stay with the church, that would indirectly show a stronger emotional attachment. On the other hand, if the participants gave a higher rating to leave the church that would indirectly show less of an emotional attachment. It was hypothesized that females would

give a higher rating on the agreement scale to stay with the church, whereas males would rate lower to stay with the church. In other words, my hypothesis was that females are more likely to be emotionally attached to their church than males.

Method

Participants

Eighty-five _____ Nazarene University students (27 males, 58 females) volunteered to participate in the experiment in exchange for extra course credit. The participants were randomly assigned, using block randomization, to read one of the six scenarios described below.

Design and Materials

The design of the experiment was a 2 x 3 between groups factorial design. As indicated above all participants were randomly assigned to read 1 of 6 versions of the same scenario. All versions of the scenario were identical in every respect except in regards to the manipulation of the independent variables. The problem addressed in this study concerned the emotional attachment of males versus females to their church.

Scenarios: The scenarios dealt with a family who struggled with the decision to stay with or leave their church, due to 1 of 3 problems. The problems that the family dealt with were a theological issue, a problem with the children's program, or job change. Thus, one of the independent variables was the reason for considering leaving. Within each of these conditions, half of the participants read a version in which the family

decided to stay with the church, and the other half read a version in which the family decided to leave. Thus, the second independent variable was the decision made.

The dependent variable was a strength of agreement rating regarding the family's decision to stay with or leave the church, which was an indicator of the participant's emotional attachment. Listed below each of the scenarios were four statements with which, the participants were asked to rate their strength of agreement, ranging from 1 to 7, 1 being strongly disagree and 7 being strongly agree (see appendices for the complete set of scenarios). Out of the 4 statements presented there was one particular statement regarding the family's decision to stay with or leave their church. This statement indirectly assessed the participant's emotional attachment to their church. The critical dependent measure that the participants responded to was as follows: Jason and Sarah made the right decision regarding their church. Overall, if the participants gave a higher agreement rating to stay with the church that would indicate stronger emotional attachment, whereas if they gave a higher agreement rating to leave the church that would indicate less emotional attachment. The figure below indicates a 2 x 3 factorial design with this information provided.

Design of Experiment
2 x 3 Between Groups Factorial

Reason for Considering Leaving

	<i>Theological Issue</i>	<i>Children's Program</i>	<i>Job Change</i>
Decision <i>Leave</i>			
<i>Stay</i>			

Procedure

The experimental sessions were conducted in four 30-minute time increments. Two of the sessions were specifically for females, and two were specifically for males. As the participants entered the class room they were asked to sign their name for extra credit and take their seat, filling the front rows first and so on. The scenarios were handed out randomly according to seating. In every session the experimenter explained to the participants that they were able to withdraw from the study if at any time they felt uncomfortable. In each session the experimenter gave a brief overview of the scenario and thanked the participants for volunteering their time in this research. The instructions asked that the participants carefully read the scenario and then rate their strength of agreement with each of the statements about the scenario on a scale of 1 to 7 (1 being strongly disagree and 7 being strongly agree). After an overview of the scenario was provided, the participants were once again given the opportunity to withdraw if they felt uncomfortable. Once that was said, the scenarios were handed to the participants and they were permitted to begin their task. After all the participants completed their task, the experimenter collected the scenarios and proceeded, finishing with some closing remarks. In the closing, the experimenter debriefed the participants and requested that they not share any of the details of the experiment with anyone until all of the data had been collected. They were told that if anyone was interested in the results of the experiment they could contact my professor or me. The participants were then thanked again and dismissed.

Results

Table 1 displays the mean strength of agreement ratings across the factorial conditions of the experiment. The overall means for the reason for considering leaving, suggest that there is no main effect of this variable upon the agreement ratings, but there does seem to be a main effect of the decision to stay with or leave the church, with a higher rating given for staying with the church. Overall, though the differences are small, the children's program received the lowest rating, followed by a theological issue, and the highest was job change. In addition, the data suggests there was no difference in the ratings for the decision to stay with or leave the church for a theological issue and job change. However, there does appear to be a difference in the ratings for a children's program across the decision to stay with or to leave the church, with there being a stronger rating for staying. Thus, there does appear to be an interaction between the two independent variables.

Table 1

Mean Strength of Agreement Rating as a Function of Reason for Considering Leaving and Decision

		Reason for Considering Leaving			Overall
		Theological Issue	Children's Program	Job Change	
Decision	Leave	4.600	3.154	4.357	4.037
	Stay	4.786	5.714	5.133	5.211
	Overall	4.693	4.434	4.745	

Table 2 displays the ANOVA summary for the 2 x 3 between groups factorial analysis for data that the means in Table 1 are based upon. The probability value for the reason for considering leaving showed no main effect. However, the probability value for the decision made indicated a very significant main effect. As mentioned before, Table 1 shows the ratings of agreement for staying were superior to the ratings for leaving one's church. Table 2 also indicates that there is a significant interaction between the reason for considering leaving and the decision made.

Table 2

ANOVA Summary for Analysis of Strength of Agreement Ratings as a Function of Reason for Considering and Decision Made

Effect	F-Observed	DF	MSE	Probability
Reason for Considering Leaving	.313	2; 79	2.449	.732
Decision Made	11.934	1; 79	2.449	.001
Interaction	4.319	2; 79	2.449	.017

Since the interaction between the reason for considering leaving and the decision made is significant, a test of the simple effects of decision made at each level of reason for considering leaving was conducted. Table 3 shows the results of this analysis. As indicated by Table, 3 the probability value for the job change shows no significant difference between leaving and staying. The same goes for a theological issue. However there is a significant difference with the children's program. As noted before, the rating of agreement for staying was much higher than for leaving one's church.

Table 3

ANOVA Summary for Simple Effects of Decision Made at Each Level of Reason for Considering Leaving

	F Observed	DF	MSE	Probability
Job Change	1.814	1; 27	2.405	.189
Children's Program	19.537	1; 25	2.262	.000
Theological Issue	.094	1; 27	2.665	.762

I want to remind the reader that it was hypothesized that there would be a difference between males and females in their emotional attachment to their church. A more in depth hypothesis was made that females would be more emotionally attached than males. In order to assess any differences in the emotional attachment between males and females the data had to be split between genders. Thus, two separate 2 x 3 between groups factorial analyses of variance were conducted, 1 for males and 1 for females. Table 4 displays the mean strength of agreement rating as a function of reason for considering leaving and decision made for males. As one can see there appears to be no significant differences. The difference between each of the conditions for reason for considering leaving is very small. The numbers overall for the leave and stay condition are both very close, again suggesting there is no main effect for males.

Table 4

Mean Strength of Agreement Rating as a Function of Reason for Considering Leaving and Decision for Males

		Reason for Considering Leaving			
		Theological Issue	Children's Program	Job Change	Overall
Decision	Leave	4.500	3.800	4.800	4.367
	Stay	5.000	4.250	5.000	4.750
	Overall	4.750	4.025	4.900	

Table 5 displays the ANOVA summary for a 2 x 3 between groups factorial analysis for the data that the means in Table 4 are based upon for the males. By observing the probabilities, one can see there is no significant effect for reason for considering leaving or decision made. Table 5 also shows that there is no interaction between the two independent variables.

Table 5

ANOVA Summary for Analysis of Strength of Agreement Ratings as a Function of Reason for Considering and Decision Made for Males

Effect	F-Observed	DF	MSE	Probability
Reason for Considering Leaving	.901	2; 21	2.160	.421
Decision Made	.454	1; 21	2.160	.974
Interaction	.027	2; 21	2.160	.974

Table 6 displays the mean strength of agreement rating as a function of reason for considering leaving and decision for females. The data suggests that there does not appear to be a main effect for reason for considering leaving, as all means are very similar. However, there does appear to be a main effect of the decision made, with a higher rating for staying over leaving. Table 6 seems to indicate an interaction between the reason for considering leaving and the decision made. The data below indicate a greater difference in the means for staying versus leaving for the children's program than for a job change or theological issue. Overall women are much more likely to stay than to leave their church.

Table 6

Mean Strength of Agreement Rating as a Function of Reason for Considering Leaving and Decision for Females

		Reason for Considering Leaving			
		Theological Issue	Children's Program	Job Change	Overall
Decision	Leave	4.636	2.750	4.111	3.832
	Stay	4.667	6.300	5.182	5.383
	Overall	4.652	4.525	4.646	

Table 7 displays the ANOVA summary for the 2 x 3 between groups factorial analysis of the data that the means in Table 6 are based upon. The probability value for the reason for considering leaving shows no main effect. Yet for the decision made the probability value shows that there is a very significant main effect with a higher rating for staying than leaving for females. Table 7 also indicates a significant interaction between the reason for considering leaving and the decision made.

Table 7

ANOVA Summary for Analysis of Strength of Agreement Ratings as a Function of Reason for Considering and Decision Made for Females

Effect	F-Observed	DF	MSE	Probability
Reason for Considering Leaving	.038	2; 52	2.513	.963
Decision Made	13.685	1; 52	2.513	.001
Interaction	6.024	2; 52	2.513	.004

Since the interaction between the reason for considering leaving and the decision made is significant, a test of the simple effects of decision made at each level of reason for considering leaving for the female gender was conducted. Table 8 displays the results of this analysis. The probability values for the job change and theological issue show no significant difference between leaving and staying. On the other hand, the probability value for a children's program indicates a very strong significant difference. Again, it will be recalled that women gave a much higher rating for staying with than leaving their church.

Table 8

ANOVA Summary for Simple Effects of Decision Made at Each Level of Reason for Considering Leaving for Females

	F Observed	DF	MSE	Probability
Job Change	1.745	1; 18	3.251	.203
Children's Program	45.723	1; 16	1.225	.000
Theological Issue	.002	1; 18	2.919	.969

**Reason for
Considering Leaving**

Discussion

The present study examined the emotional attachment of males and females to their church, based upon a strength of agreement rating from the participants regarding a family's decision to stay with or leave their church. Before the experiment was conducted I hypothesized that females were more emotionally attached to their church than males. More specifically, I hypothesized that females would give a higher agreement rating to stay with their church than to leave, and that males would show stronger agreement ratings to leave than to stay. Furthermore, I hypothesized that both males and females would show higher ratings to leave the church for a theological issue over a job change and children's program. In addition, I hypothesized that women would give a higher agreement rating to leave the church for a children's program, than to stay.

My hypothesis regarding the relationship between women and the children's program was not supported. Surprisingly, women gave a very low rating to leave the church when it came to a problem within the children's program. I would have thought that women, typically being the primary care givers for their children, would have shown a higher rating to leave the church when a problem in a children's program took place. Even though I hypothesized this, I take this finding as being very positive. Since women did not give a higher rating to leave for a children's program, this shows that females are more invested in their church and that it is going to take a lot more for them to leave.

My specific hypothesis regarding the strength of agreement rating that males and females would give for a theological issue was not supported. I assumed that a theological issue within the church would cause a higher agreement rating to leave the church. However, both genders were very ambivalent with their decision to stay with or

leave the church when it came to the issue of theology. In other words, both genders showed no difference in their support for leaving or staying when it came to a theological issue. It is possible that the scenario did not emphasize the seriousness of the issue at hand, but regardless the results imply that there is a problem in the way the church presents its theology to others. Even so, I was surprised by this finding, especially being that all 85 participants attend _____ Nazarene University where our doctrine is the foundation of our school. It is likely that all of the participants are not Nazarene, but our school has its focus on the Nazarene doctrine and has based its rules according to what the Nazarene Church believes. Taking this into consideration, it is important to recognize the implications this holds for the Church of the Nazarene. A church's theology is the building block and foundation of a church. For example, the Church of the Nazarene believes in sanctification and holiness. These two principles, out of many others, have helped to shape and mold the Church of the Nazarene. Now if our theology is not being presented in a strong and clear manner, then how is anyone supposed to fully obtain the definition of religious capital? It will be recalled again that religious capital is "the degree of mastery of and attachment to a particular religious culture" (Stark and Finke, 2000, p.120). If anything, mastery of a denomination or religion refers to the theology of the church. If these principles are not being taught with great emphases, then how are people supposed to know the importance of what they believe? I am not saying that our theology is wrong, but I am saying that if a church is teaching something that is not theologically sound then I would hope that someone would not be willing to settle for something they do not agree with, as the data indicates that some of the participants in

this study were willing to do. Therefore, it is imperative that the Church of the Nazarene is clear about what our theology is and the importance it holds.

On the other hand, both of my hypotheses regarding the emotional attachment of females, and the female's strength of agreement rating for staying with the church were supported. These findings imply that women are more likely to stay with their church than males, indirectly showing that females are more emotionally attached than males to their church. Why is this important for the Church of the Nazarene? As mentioned before, statistics are showing more females in the church than males across denominations nationwide (Barna Research 2000). However, the Church of the Nazarene has yet to express concern over this issue. Once again it will be noted that scripture sets a high calling on the leadership of males in our families. If statistics are showing less men in the church, then how are they fulfilling the calling the Lord has placed on them to be leaders in their homes. So why are men not coming to church? Considering the results of this experiment, it was shown that women are more emotionally attached to their church than men. It is important to remember that Finke (2003) mentioned that religious capital constitutes not just "a degree of mastery of" a particular religious culture, but also the emotional attachment to that religious culture. Finke also indirectly mentions that if one does not have this religious capital they are likely to re-affiliate or leave the church. Men are not being invested into emotionally and therefore we are seeing less and less men in the church today. Despite the fact that the Church of the Nazarene has yet to research this issue, there are steps that can be taken before it becomes even more serious. I believe these steps will help one to obtain as well as build more religious capital in the church.

I suggest that the church finds programs to get men more emotionally involved. This requires finding out what the men in the church enjoy doing and are passionate about, whether it be fishing, hunting, playing basketball, etc. Any sort of activity can be coincided with a message served to deepen one's faith and emotional attachment. Men need more options besides Sunday and Wednesday night services.

Some further research that can be conducted in response to this current study would be to replicate this exact study, but within the church. I think that this would help to better evaluate the issue of men not being in the church. The issues in the scenarios are situations that older adults may have faced in life already. In this regard, I think that the results we would obtain would be more thorough. It would also be interesting to collect data from the leaders in the church regarding their response to a question about what has kept them in the position they hold. Following this, I think it would be helpful to find men in the church who have been in the church for a long period of time, and to conduct interviews asking why those men have stayed at their church. In addition to this research, I think it would also benefit the church to do further research regarding the importance of theology. This could be conducted by setting up a scenario (like the one I have made) that presents a specific issue with which one would have to give a strength of agreement rating regarding whether a family makes the right decision to stay with or leave their church. Not only would this help assess whether one understands the importance of theology, but it would also indirectly assess the emotional attachment of males and females even further.

In summary, the major implications of this study are that women are more emotionally attached, and we need to get men more emotionally involved. Also, this

study indicates that theology is not being taken seriously, and we need to express the importance theology holds in our churches.

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Appendix A
Reason: Job Change
Decision: Leave

The Reed's are a family of four. Sarah and her husband, Jason, have been married for fifteen years. They have two boys, Mike and Steve. Steve is going into his sophomore year in high school and Mike will be entering the seventh grade. Sarah works as the secretary at the church. She is involved in the Senior High Youth Group and helps teach a Sunday school class with her friend Marge. Jason works for a business corporation. He has been there for the past five years and really enjoys what he does. Jason helps with the morning worship at the church and serves as an usher for the services as well.

The church has a lot of meaning to the Reeds. Both Jason and Sarah grew up in this church. Sarah came to the church at the beginning of her high school years. It was in youth group where Jason and Sarah met. Jason and Sarah were baptized and accepted the Lord in this church. Steve and Mike have attachment to the church as well. Ever since they were born, they had been attending this local church. As little children both of them accepted the Lord. The church is very embracing and has been there to support their family through hard times. All in all, the church is a big part of the Reed's life. They have put a lot in the church and definitely get a lot out of it.

However, a problem has come up. Jason has been offered a higher paying job that will require the Reed's to move and would make it difficult to attend this church. Because of this situation, Jason and Sarah are discussing leaving their church. Both of them and their two boys love this church. They contribute a lot to it and get a lot from it. After discussing it for a few days Jason and Sarah decided to leave the church.

Appendix A
Reason: Children's Program
Decision: Leave

The Reed's are a family of four. Sarah and her husband, Jason, have been married for fifteen years. They have two boys, Mike and Steve. Steve is going into his sophomore year in high school and Mike will be entering the seventh grade. Sarah works as the secretary at the church. She is involved in the Senior High Youth Group and helps teach a Sunday school class with her friend Marge. Jason works for a business corporation. He has been there for the past five years and really enjoys what he does. Jason helps with the morning worship at the church and serves as an usher for the services as well.

The church has a lot of meaning to the Reeds. Both Jason and Sarah grew up in this church. Sarah came to the church at the beginning of her high school years. It was in youth group where Jason and Sarah met. Jason and Sarah were baptized and accepted the Lord in this church. Steve and Mike have attachment to the church as well. Ever since they were born, they had been attending this local church. As little children both of them accepted the Lord. The church is very embracing and has been there to support their family through hard times. All in all, the church is a big part of the Reed's life. They have put a lot in the church and definitely get a lot out of it.

However, a problem has come up. The children's program in the church is falling apart, due to a change in the children's pastor. Because of this situation, Jason and Sarah are discussing leaving their church. Both of them and their two boys love this church. They contribute a lot to it and get a lot from it. After discussing it for a few days Jason and Sarah decided to leave the church.

Appendix A
Reason: Theological Issue
Decision: Leave

The Reed's are a family of four. Sarah and her husband, Jason, have been married for fifteen years. They have two boys, Mike and Steve. Steve is going into his sophomore year in high school and Mike will be entering the seventh grade. Sarah works as the secretary at the church. She is involved in the Senior High Youth Group and helps teach a Sunday school class with her friend Marge. Jason works for a business corporation. He has been there for the past five years and really enjoys what he does. Jason helps with the morning worship at the church and serves as an usher for the services as well.

The church has a lot of meaning to the Reeds. Both Jason and Sarah grew up in this church. Sarah came to the church at the beginning of her high school years. It was in youth group where Jason and Sarah met. Jason and Sarah were baptized and accepted the Lord in this church. Steve and Mike have attachment to the church as well. Ever since they were born, they had been attending this local church. As little children both of them accepted the Lord. The church is very embracing and has been there to support their family through hard times. All in all, the church is a big part of the Reed's life. They have put a lot in the church and definitely get a lot out of it.

However, a problem has come up. Jason and Sarah are struggling with a theological issue that challenges their beliefs. Because of this situation, Jason and Sarah are discussing leaving their church. Both of them and their two boys love this church. They contribute a lot to it and get a lot from it. After discussing it for a few days Jason and Sarah decided to leave the church.

Appendix A
Reason: Job Change
Decision: Stay

The Reed's are a family of four. Sarah and her husband, Jason, have been married for fifteen years. They have two boys, Mike and Steve. Steve is going into his sophomore year in high school and Mike will be entering the seventh grade. Sarah works as the secretary at the church. She is involved in the Senior High Youth Group and helps teach a Sunday school class with her friend Marge. Jason works for a business corporation. He has been there for the past five years and really enjoys what he does. Jason helps with the morning worship at the church and serves as an usher for the services as well.

The church has a lot of meaning to the Reeds. Both Jason and Sarah grew up in this church. Sarah came to the church at the beginning of her high school years. It was in youth group where Jason and Sarah met. Jason and Sarah were baptized and accepted the Lord in this church. Steve and Mike have attachment to the church as well. Ever since they were born, they had been attending this local church. As little children both of them accepted the Lord. The church is very embracing and has been there to support their family through hard times. All in all, the church is a big part of the Reed's life. They have put a lot in the church and definitely get a lot out of it.

However, a problem has come up. Jason has been offered a higher paying job that will require the Reed's to move and would make it difficult to attend this church. Because of this situation, Jason and Sarah are discussing leaving their church. Both of them and their two boys love this church. They contribute a lot to it and get a lot from it. After discussing it for a few days Jason and Sarah decided to stay with the church.

Appendix A
Reason: Children's Program
Decision: Stay

The Reed's are a family of four. Sarah and her husband, Jason, have been married for fifteen years. They have two boys, Mike and Steve. Steve is going into his sophomore year in high school and Mike will be entering the seventh grade. Sarah works as the secretary at the church. She is involved in the Senior High Youth Group and helps teach a Sunday school class with her friend Marge. Jason works for a business corporation. He has been there for the past five years and really enjoys what he does. Jason helps with the morning worship at the church and serves as an usher for the services as well.

The church has a lot of meaning to the Reeds. Both Jason and Sarah grew up in this church. Sarah came to the church at the beginning of her high school years. It was in youth group where Jason and Sarah met. Jason and Sarah were baptized and accepted the Lord in this church. Steve and Mike have attachment to the church as well. Ever since they were born, they had been attending this local church. As little children both of them accepted the Lord. The church is very embracing and has been there to support their family through hard times. All in all, the church is a big part of the Reed's life. They have put a lot in the church and definitely get a lot out of it.

However, a problem has come up. The children's program in the church is falling apart, due to a change in the children's pastor. Because of this situation, Jason and Sarah are discussing leaving their church. Both of them and their two boys love this church. They contribute a lot to it and get a lot from it. After discussing it for a few days Jason and Sarah decided to stay with the church.

Appendix A
Reason: Theological Issue
Decision: Stay

The Reed's are a family of four. Sarah and her husband, Jason, have been married for fifteen years. They have two boys, Mike and Steve. Steve is going into his sophomore year in high school and Mike will be entering the seventh grade. Sarah works as the secretary at the church. She is involved in the Senior High Youth Group and helps teach a Sunday school class with her friend Marge. Jason works for a business corporation. He has been there for the past five years and really enjoys what he does. Jason helps with the morning worship at the church and serves as an usher for the services as well.

The church has a lot of meaning to the Reeds. Both Jason and Sarah grew up in this church. Sarah came to the church at the beginning of her high school years. It was in youth group where Jason and Sarah met. Jason and Sarah were baptized and accepted the Lord in this church. Steve and Mike have attachment to the church as well. Ever since they were born, they had been attending this local church. As little children both of them accepted the Lord. The church is very embracing and has been there to support their family through hard times. All in all, the church is a big part of the Reed's life. They have put a lot in the church and definitely get a lot out of it.

However, a problem has come up. Jason and Sarah are struggling with a theological issue that challenges their beliefs. Because of this situation, Jason and Sarah are discussing leaving their church. Both of them and their two boys love this church. They contribute a lot to it and get a lot from it. After discussing it for a few days Jason and Sarah decided to stay with the church.

Appendix B

Statements Answered by the Participants (Male and Female)

Please read carefully each of the following statements regarding the information provided in the above scenario. After reading each statement, rate your strength of agreement with each statement by circling the appropriate number on the scale below. Note that higher numbers equal stronger agreement with the statement, with 1 being strongly disagree and 7 strongly agree.

1. The church has had a major impact upon the Reed's life.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

2. The Reed's are involved in the life of their church.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

3. The Reed family has a lot to offer their church.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

4. Jason and Sarah made the right decision regarding their church.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree