HOW TO SHOOT CHURCH PHOTOS THAT DON'T SUCK

Every week
we coordinate
church photoshoots
all around the world.

Here's exactly
what we share with
those photographers...





I. The Objective

Let's start with our definition for a successful church photoshoot - it reads like this:

A successful church photoshoot is all about capturing the organic nature of church life with an emphasis on the people.





II. What To Bring

✅ **Long Lenses**
(so you can capture interactions and sacred moments from afar)

✅ **Fast Lenses**
(to deal with the low lighting of some church sanctuaries)

✅ **Variety Of Focal Lengths**
(to capture a variety of perspectives)

❌ **Studio Lights**
(please work with the natural lighting conditions of the church building)

❌ **Tripods**
(run and gun is the way to go for a shoot like this)





III. Shot List

There are key moments to capture before, during, and after a church service:

BEFORE SERVICE:

Take photos of the

- **parking lot as people arrive,**
- **greeters at the front door welcoming people,**
- **people in the foyer or lobby,**
- **and people grabbing a coffee.**





III. Shot List CONTINUED

WORSHIP SERVICE:



Capture close-ups of the

- music and worship team,
- the music and worship team from the back of the room,
- the congregation worshipping up close,
- the congregation worshipping in a wide shot,
- the MC spot or announcements,
- the preacher walking on stage,
- the preacher preaching,
- the altar call, and prayer.





III. Shot List CONTINUED

AFTER SERVICE:

Capture photos of

- **people at the connection booth,**
- **people getting prayed for,**
- **and people waving goodbye.**



III. Shot List CONTINUED

- ✅ **Authentic moments of worship**
  (eyes closed, hands raised, prayer, band on stage, etc.)
- ✅ **Authentic moments of human interaction**
  (folks talking and smiling, conversations, etc.)
- ✅ **Authentic moments of people moving around the church**
  (entering the building, entering the sanctuary, mingling in the lobby, the flow of people brushing shoulders with each other, etc.)
- ✅ **The pastor preaching and people listening**
- ✅ **Exterior/establishing shots of the building and parking lot**
- ✅ **Details**
  (a church pew, cup of coffee, stack of bulletins, etc.)
- ✅ **A mix of portrait and landscape orientation**

IV. Etiquette

Most importantly, you want to be a non-invasive presence. The goal is to capture organic church life. This is why we want to avoid using tripods and studio lights. It's also why long lenses are so useful - to capture any intimate or personal moment happening from a distance without being disruptive.