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### College, Religion, and Spirituality

“Laura, are we going to church on Saturday night or Sunday night?” Before I went away to college, there was no question of whether or not the family was going to church, only when we would go. Attending parochial schools from pre-kindergarten to my senior year of high school meant not only going to church every weekend, but also regularly during school hours. In addition, I took the kind of religion courses required at a religious school. Because of my upbringing, I always assumed I would go to church on a regular basis, **[error #8; comma splice.]** I can even remember saying that when I moved away to college, I was going to find a church that I liked and go every single weekend. **[I like the way you have set up of the topic/issue. You might want to specify the religious affiliation you have with both the church and the religious school. Don’t assume your audience knows it’s Catholic: as other religions might also work this way.]**

I have asked myself many times why I didn’t go to church as often as I should have and why most of the people I know didn’t go at all. **[Can you make a tighter transition into these questions? How did you come to this point?]** Certainly life seemed better when I felt a spiritual connection to God, and attending church only took up one hour a week. Nevertheless, I let my church attention lapse **[Do you mean “attention” or “attendance”? If it’s “attention,” you might want to say that you let your attention to church or religious activities lapse; letting your “church attention” lapse doesn’t quite make sense to me.]** Chris Burdette of the University of Central Florida says **[Where does Burdette say this, and what’s his or her discussion about?]**, “Statistics show that 50 percent of those who start out religious, fall away from it during college (Jacob). Perhaps I am in that 50 percent for right now **[It’s not clear which 50%**

**you belong to; please specify],** but how and why did I get there? More important, does a change in church attendance necessarily mean a loss of spirituality? In fact, there are many reasons that may account for not exercising one's spirituality through official church attendance or involvement with religious activities at college. **[What kinds of reasons? Consider expanding by characterizing these reasons and then specify what they are.]**