
Basic Disciplines for Believers

Discipline #5: Committed Gathering

Because I am part of THE Body, I faithfully gather with a local body in accordance with God's design to be grown and help the body to grow.

Heb 10:24-25 ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Two Churches?

The UNIVERSAL Church

THE Church – The one (universal) assembly that is composed of all believers of the church age. THE Church is the body of Christ. This body has never met together, and does not function as a unit (as of yet). (Matt 16:18; 1 Cor 12:13; Eph 5:23)

The LOCAL Church

A Church – Any group of believers gathering together in a specific, geographical area, and functioning as a Bible-defined local church. A Biblical church has qualified leaders, and works together as a local body as defined by God. (Matt 18:15-17; Gal 1:2; Rev 2:1)

What Is the Church?

What the Church Is NOT:

1. The Church Is Not a Place

- Biblically speaking, "Let's go to church" is erroneous and leads to false ideas.
- Thus, "church" involves more than just "going somewhere."
- "Where do you want to go to church this Sunday?" misses the Biblical teaching of what a church is and does.
- A church building is not "God's house," or a modern-day OT temple.

2. The Church Is Not a Time

- Thus, "church" involves more than just going to a "service" sometime.

3. The Church Is Not a Service

- Attending a service does not constitute "church" in light of the Bible.

4. The Church Is Not a List

- "I'm a member @ _____ Church, but I don't attend very often," is not a Biblical view.
- Not a merely a list, but active participation in a group of people as structured and designed by God (Mt 18)

What the Church IS:

1. **A Group of Believers in Jesus' Death & Resurrection (John 3:18; Acts 2:40-41)**
2. **A Specific Assembly Committed to One Another (Acts 2:42)**
3. **Led by God-Appointed, God-Approved Leaders (Eph 4:11-12)**
4. **Proclaiming the Gospel to Unbelievers (Matt 28:19; 2 Cor 5:20-21)**
5. **Pursuing the Training of Believers to Full Maturity & Service (Matt 28:20; Eph 4:11-16)**
6. **Perpetuating Leadership to the Next Generation (2 Tim 2:2)**
7. **Preserving the Truth in the Face of Falsehood (1 Tim 3:15; Jude 1:3)**

Northridge Baptist Church – Pastor Kevin Subra – May 2, 2010

I Need the Church, and the Church Needs Me, or Assembling Is More Than Getting Together

Hebrews 10:24-25

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as [is] the manner of some,

but exhorting [one another],

and so much the more

as you see the Day approaching.

καὶ κατανοῶμεν ἀλλήλους
εἰς παροξυσμὸν
ἀγάπης καὶ
καλῶν ἔργων,
μὴ ἐγκαταλείποντες (present participle)
τὴν ἐπισυναγωγὴν ἑαυτῶν,
καθὼς ἔθος τισίν,
ἀλλὰ παρακαλοῦντες,
καὶ τοσούτῳ μᾶλλον
ὅσῳ βλέπετε ἐγγίζουσιν τὴν ἡμέραν.