
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 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 the Church Is NOT:

1. **The Church Is Not a Place** (involves more than just "going somewhere")
2. **The Church Is Not a Time** (involves more than just going to a "service" sometime)
3. **The Church Is Not a Service** (involves more than attending a service)
4. **The Church Is Not a List** (not just a name on a membership list)

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** (Mt 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)

I Need the Church, and the Church Needs Me (Heb 10:24-25)

And let us CONSIDER one another
in order to stir up
love and
good works,
not forsaking
the assembling
of ourselves together,
as [is] the manner of some,
but exhorting [one another],
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as you see the Day approaching.

- You are here for the benefit of the body (others). For whom do you come? You or somebody else?
- The church is a specific body – a single group of people that are committed to one another for mutual benefit. (We are not simply committed to oneself – that is consumerism.)
- Consider → requires continuous focus on a specific group – the local body.
- The assembly assembles, and does so as a necessity to spiritual maturity.
- Not forsaking but actively encouraging.

Safety of the Saints: Committed Gathering Protects Us
Hebrews 3:12-13

¹² Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; ¹³ but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

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lest any of you be hardened

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Βλέπετε, ἀδελφοί,
μήποτε ἔσται ἐν τινὶ ὑμῶν
καρδία πονηρὰ ἀπιστίας
ἐν τῷ ἀποστῆναι
ἀπὸ θεοῦ ζῶντος,
ἀλλὰ **παρακαλεῖτε** ἑαυτοὺς
καθ' ἐκάστην ἡμέραν,
ἄχρις οὗ τὸ σήμερον καλεῖται,
ἵνα μὴ σκληρυνθῇ τις ἐξ ὑμῶν
ἀπάτη τῆς ἁμαρτίας-