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**Basic Disciplines for Believers**  
**Discipline #5: Committed Gathering**

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*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, <sup>25</sup> 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],  
and so much the more  
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*

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

**Beware, brethren,**

lest there be in any of you

an evil heart of unbelief

in departing

from the living God;

but **exhort one another**

daily,

while it is called "Today,"

lest any of you be hardened

through the deceitfulness of sin.

**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-

This can happen to US!

The Danger:

- An evil heart of unbelief
- Departing from the living God
- Caused by hardening
- That comes through sin's deceit

The Solution:

- Daily exhorting of one another

## 1 Corinthians 12:4-27

- <sup>4</sup> There are diversities of gifts,  
but the same Spirit.
- <sup>5</sup> There are differences of ministries,  
but the same Lord.
- <sup>6</sup> And there are diversities of activities,  
but it is the same God  
who works all in all.
- <sup>7</sup> But the manifestation of the **Spirit**  
is given to each one  
for the profit *of all*:
- <sup>8</sup> for to one is given  
the word of wisdom  
through the **Spirit**,
- to another  
the word of knowledge  
through the same Spirit,
- <sup>9</sup> to another  
faith  
by the same Spirit,
- to another  
gifts of healings  
by the same Spirit,
- <sup>10</sup> to another  
the working of miracles,
- to another  
prophecy,
- to another  
discerning of spirits,
- to another  
*different* kinds of tongues,
- to another  
the interpretation of tongues.
- <sup>11</sup> But one and the same Spirit  
works all these things,  
distributing to each one  
individually  
as He wills.

- <sup>12</sup> For as the body is one  
and has many members,  
but all the members  
of that one body,  
being many,  
are one body,  
so also is Christ.
- <sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit  
we were all baptized  
into one body  
--whether Jews or Greeks,  
whether slaves or free—  
and have all been made to drink  
into one Spirit.
- <sup>14</sup> For in fact the body  
is not one member  
but many.
- <sup>15</sup> If the foot should say,  
"Because I am not a hand,  
I am not of the body,"  
is it therefore not of the body?
- <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say,  
"Because I am not an eye,  
I am not of the body,"  
is it therefore not of the body?
- <sup>17</sup> If the whole body *were* an eye,  
where *would be* the hearing?  
If the whole *were* hearing,  
where *would be* the smelling?
- <sup>18</sup> But now God has set the members,  
each one of them,  
in the body  
just as He pleased.
- <sup>19</sup> And if they *were* all one member,  
where *would* the body *be*?
- <sup>20</sup> But now indeed  
*there are* many members,  
yet one body.

- <sup>21</sup> And the eye cannot say to the hand,  
"I have no need of you";  
nor again the head to the feet,  
"I have no need of you."
- <sup>22</sup> No, much rather,  
those members of the body  
which seem to be weaker  
are necessary.
- <sup>23</sup> And those *members* of the body  
which we think to be less honorable,  
on these we bestow greater honor;  
and our unpresentable *parts*  
have greater modesty,  
<sup>24</sup> but our presentable *parts*  
have no need.
- But God composed the body,  
having given greater honor  
to that *part* which lacks it,
- <sup>25</sup> that there should be no schism  
in the body,
- but *that* the members  
should have the same care  
for one another.
- <sup>26</sup> And if one member suffers,  
all the members  
suffer with *it*;  
or if one member is honored,  
all the members  
rejoice with *it*.
- <sup>27</sup> Now you are  
the body of Christ,  
and members individually.