
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. (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. (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 4:11f)
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) - PROMPTING

- You are here for the benefit of the body (others). For whom do you come?
- The church is a specific body – a single group of people that are committed to one another for mutual benefit.
- “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 (Heb 3:12-13) - PROTECTING

The Danger (This can happen to US!):

The Solution:

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

One Body/Many Members: Committed Gathering Places (1 Cor 12:4-27) - PLACING

- God puts us in a local body as HE WILL (not wholly our choice).
- We are here to minister to this particular body.
- Each member has a God-designed purpose.

Committed Gathering Engages Us: “One Another” Central (Epistles)

1. Admonish One Another (Rom 15:14; Col 3:16)
2. Be Hospitable to One Another (1 Pet 4:9)
3. Be Kind to One Another (Eph 4:32)
4. Be Kindly Affectionate to One Another (Rom 12:10)
5. Be of the Same Mind Toward One Another (Rom 12:16; 15:5)
6. Bear One Another's Burdens (Gal 6:2)
7. Bear With One Another (Eph 4:2; Col 3:13)
8. Comfort One Another (1 Thes 4:18; 5:11)
9. Confess Your Trespasses to One Another (James 5:16)
10. Consider One Another (Heb 10:24)
11. Edify One Another (Rom 14:19; 1 Thes 5:11)
12. Exhort One Another (Heb 3:13; 10:25)
13. Forgive One Another (Col 3:13)
14. Greet One Another with a Holy Kiss (Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 1 Pet 5:14)
15. Have Compassion on One Another (1 Pet 3:8)
16. Have the Same Care for One Another (1 Cor 12:25)
17. Love One Another (Rom 13:8; 1 Thes 3:12; 4:9; 1 Pet 1:22; 4:8; 1 John 3:11; 3:23; 4:7; 4:11; 4:12; 2 John 1:5)
18. Minister Your Gift to One Another (1 Pet 4:10)
19. Pray for One Another (James 5:16)
20. Receive One Another (Rom 15:7)
21. Serve One Another (Gal 5:13)
22. Speak to One Another (Eph 5:19)
23. Submit to One Another (Eph 5:21; 1 Pet 5:5)
24. Teach One Another (Col 3:16)
25. Wait for One Another (1 Cor 11:33)

When NOT to Gather

Matt 18:15-20 ¹⁷ “And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

1 Cor 5:1-13 ¹¹ But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner-- not even to eat with such a person.

2 Thes 3:10-15 ¹⁴ And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵ Yet do not count *him* as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.

See also *Psalms 1:1, 2 Cor 6:14-7:1; Eph 5:11*