

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.
- The opposite of "not forsaking" is not "attending" 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 • Daily exhorting of one another
- Departing from the living God
- Caused by hardening
- That comes through sin's deceit

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

- God puts us in a local body as HE WILLS (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*

Summary Questions:

Am I faithfully gathering? For the sake of myself and others?

Am I considering others? Am I a functional, reliable part of the local body?