

Spiritual disciplines for a healthy church

1. Why do we gather?

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Introduction

- Church in the time of Covid?
- **Six reasons** to attend the weekly gathering:

Gathering is a command

- *“not giving up meeting together...”* (Heb. 10:24-25, 1 Jn. 5:3)

Gathering is preventative

- The antidote to falling away (Heb. 10:24-25)

Gathering is encouraging

- *“but encouraging one another”* (Heb. 10:24-25, Rom. 15:4)

Gathering is what it means to be a church

- The meaning of the word *“church”* (1 Cor. 11:18, 14:28)

Gathering is where we experience God’s presence

- Jesus with his people (Matt. 18:20, 1 Cor. 5:4, etc.)

Gathering is participating in God’s work in the world

- Gathering or scattering? (Matt. 12:30)

Conclusion

Hebrews 10v19-25 (NIV)

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.