

Reflecting on Why I Need the Church

April 29, 2018

Note: There is a business meeting scheduled for April 29, which means that our Sunday School classes will **NOT** meet on this day. You are encouraged to use this handout during the week for your own personal study and reflection. But don't stop there! Find someone to discuss this information with outside of our regular services. Thank you!

Introduction: Today we studied a number of passages to make the case that each of us needs the church. The message presented three elements of church life that are indispensable to Christian growth:

1. The Edifying Power of Christian Fellowship
(1 Thess. 5:11; Heb. 3:13, 10:25)
2. The Transforming Power of Corporate Worship
(2 Cor. 3:18; Col. 3:16; 1 Cor. 14:26)
3. The Spiritual Oversight of Godly Pastors and Leaders
(1 Thes. 5:12-13, Heb. 13:17)

General Questions:

1. Which element of the church life stuck out to you as being particularly important? Why?
2. What does God want you to change about the way you live your life this week as a result of what we learned from these elements of the church?

Specific Questions:

3. Read Hebrews 3:12-14, 10:23-25. According to these verses, what kind of mutual impact should interaction between believers have on their spiritual lives?

Share a time when you experienced this through interaction with someone at church (past or present).

4. Based on Hebrews 10:23-25, why is it important to meet together on a regular basis?

Why is regular church attendance difficult for some? What is lost when we don't choose to regularly attend?

5. Have you ever attended a church where certain members/attenders would walk into the auditorium just as the pastor began preaching leave as soon as the sermon was done? In this scenario, it seems that these individuals highly value the preaching, but not much else that happens on Sunday. What might cause a person to think this way?

What does Scripture say is wrong with this perspective?

6. Read Colossians 3:16. If possible, read this passage in multiple versions. One part of the verse that is not as clear in the ESV as in some other translations is that “teaching and admonishing” is accomplished by means of singing. In other words, songs are intended to teach us! How should this effect the way we choose which songs to sing in worship?

What is your favorite sacred song? What does it teach you about God?