

THE CHURCH GATHERED

Why Do We Gather Each Sunday?

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Hebrews 10:23-25; Acts 2:42-47

1) Why do we gather?

- Hebrews 10:23-25

2) What do we do when we gather?

A. Sing. Colossians 3:16

“To put it another way, we sing so that we can teach and admonish one another, resulting in the rich indwelling of God’s word in God’s people.”- Mike Cospers

B. Preach. 2 Timothy 4:2; Romans 10:13-17; Acts 2:42; 2 Timothy 3:16

C. Communion. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Hebrews 6:19; Luke 22:19-20

FURTHER STUDY THIS WEEK

What Happens When We Gather

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Gatherings reorients our worship. Our hearts respond and proclaim truth we believe and struggle to believe. We are challenged and invited to worship the one true God. In many cases, the singing, taking in communion, hearing the scriptures taught, calls us to repentance and is the first act of repentance. We return to worshiping God instead of ourselves, other gods, and idols. Worship gatherings are rhythmic celebrations reminding of who God is and what he has done.

Our worship gatherings pause our hurried lives that are filled with mission and community, and remind us clearly of who God is, what he has done, and who we are. Everything we do when we gather reminds us of the gospel, who we are because of the gospel, and our role in God's mission. We proclaim the gospel in song, we hear the gospel in preaching, we pray for gospel understanding and repentance, and we touch and taste the image of the gospel in communion. The elements of a worship gathering remind us of the gospel.

The gathered church points to our unity (Eph. 4:1-5), because we see the local church in one place. We are reminded that there are many of us with the same theology, practice, mission, and elders. It is in these gatherings of the scattered church we have a picture of our mutual submission to one another and our collective belief in the gospel. In other words, we know we are not going it alone. We know there are other communities out there, other believers, and other missionaries. In the same way that the gathering demonstrates our unity, it also nurtures our unity. Worship gatherings shape the culture of our church. They enforce our common language, symbols, story, theology, practices (enacting theology), and mission. It is in these gatherings that we understand the direction of the whole, the beliefs of the whole.

Give corporate witness to one another and the world. When the church gathers, the church gets to proclaim the gospel in unison to one another and we get to bare witness to those who don't believe. We get to practice and do the work of evangelism together, instead of separately. This only fosters our ability to proclaim the gospel in our neighbourhoods and community groups.

Finally, the gathering commission us into mission together. All of the things mentioned above supports, enhances, encourages, empowers, and equips the scattered (individual gospel communities) in mission. By getting together we stir or spur one another on to good deeds and love, which is why we cannot forsake gathering together (Heb 10:24-25). The gatherings commission the church into life in community and on mission.

- Adapted from <http://wearesoma.com/blog/why-we-gather/>