

Christianity 101

(Gathering)

AKA...Church attendance

6.4.23

Part 2

Hebrews 10: ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water. ²³ Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful.

²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.

I. Why gather?

A. Because scripture is clear. Believers are supposed to gather.

B. Because it's good for you as a believer.

3. Because we need you!

4. Because a "non-gatherer" is in spiritual danger.

--What are the potential consequences?

-Spiritual immaturity

-Biblically illiteracy

-Lost Generation

II. Miscellaneous “reasons” why some do not gather.

Here are my top reasons..... yes I said my top reasons.

1. I can't do hypocrites.

I Cor 5: It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and the kind of sexual immorality that is not even tolerated^[a] among the Gentiles—a man is sleeping with his father's wife. ² And you are arrogant! Shouldn't you be filled with grief and remove from your congregation the one who did this?

2. I have been hurt.

2 Timothy 4:10⁹ Make every effort to come to me soon, ¹⁰ because Demas has deserted me, since he loved this present world, and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.

¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did great harm to me. The Lord will repay him according to his works. ¹⁵ Watch out for him yourself because he strongly opposed our words.

3. I cannot stand the conflict

Matthew 18:15 ¹⁵ “If your brother sins against you,^[a] go tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won your brother. ¹⁶ But if he won't listen, take one or two others with you, so that **by the testimony^[a] of two or three witnesses every fact may be established.**^[a] ¹⁷ If he doesn't pay attention to them, tell the church.^[a] If he doesn't pay attention even to the church, let him be like a Gentile and a tax collector to you.

4. I just do not feel connected.

I Cor 12: ¹² For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ

5. I am so busy!

Mark 4:18-19 Others are like seed sown among thorns; these are the ones who hear the word, ¹⁹ but the worries of this age, the deceitfulness^[a] of wealth, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

6. I do not like the music.

Eph 5:18¹⁸ And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living, but be filled by the Spirit: ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music with your heart to the Lord,

7. I do not like the preacher.

I Cor 15: ³ For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Ephesians 4: ¹¹ And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ,

8. I do not like organized religion

9. I do not have to come to church since I am the church.

Matt 18: ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them."

10. I do not like hearing about money.

1 Corinthians 16:2 On the first day of the week, each of you is to set something aside and save in keeping with how he is prospering, so that no collections will need to be made when I come.

Close:

I don't think you can love Jesus without loving His wife.

Ed Stetzer