

WE ARE CALLED TO GATHER

With many other words Peter warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. ⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:40-47 (NIV)

❖ Called to Gather for WORSHIP:

And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? He requires you to fear him, to live according to his will, to love and worship him with all your heart and soul, ¹³and to observe the Lord's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?
Deuteronomy 10:12-13 (NLT)

1. God takes our WORSHIP seriously.

"Do not worship any other gods besides me. ⁸Do not make idols of any kind, whether in the shape of birds or animals or fish. ⁹You must never worship or bow down to them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not share your affection with any other god!"

Deuteronomy 5:7-9a (NLT)

2. Worship is showing my LOVE to God because of His LOVE for me.

We love Him because he first loved us.

1 John 4:19 (NIV)

• We've become SELF-CENTERED... We worship SELF.

Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what he is doing.

Romans 8:7 (MSG)

• We live in a SELF-CENTERED CULTURE... We worship US.

Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God... Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity.

Romans 12:2a (MSG)

3. Worship is not just about US... It's about US TOGETHER.

Do not avoid worshipping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:25 (MSG)

❖ Called to Gather for FELLOWSHIP:

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...

Acts 2:42 (NIV)

1. Fellowship simply stated is... Being PART of GOD'S FAMILY.

His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)

2. Fellowship is LOVING GOD and LOVING GOD'S FAMILY.

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:3 (NIV)

The person who loves God must also love other believers.

1 John 4:21 (GW)

I'm writing... ¹⁵so you'll know how to live in the family of God. That family is the church...

1 Timothy 3:14-15 (NCV)

3. The Four SHIPS of FELLOWSHIP:

• MEMBERSHIP... Choosing to BELONG.

You are members of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.

Ephesians 2:19 (LB)

• FRIENDSHIP... Learning to SHARE.

All the believers met together constantly and shared everything with each other.

Acts 2:44 (LB)

• PARTNERSHIP... Carrying my WEIGHT.

The whole Body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole Body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)

• KINSHIP... Loving other BELIEVERS.

We know what real love is because Christ gave up His life for us. And so we also ought to give up our lives for our Christian brothers and sisters.

1 John 3:16 (NLT)

"This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other."

John 13:35 (MSG)

- ❖ Jesus came to gather us for WORSHIP and FELLOWSHIP... Come be a part of His family. *Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure."*

Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)