



I. Two Kinds of Church

Key Truth: Church is Good for You, Your Family, and Society

II. The Beginning of Church

Acts 2:42-47

III. Church Things

Ephesians 4:11-13; Colossians 3:16

1 Corinthians 12:25–26; Hebrews 10:24–25

IV. The Benefits of Church

Mid-Week Devotion (Take time to pray & respond to the following)

The primary reason for gathering with a local church is to worship God. However, He has also designed the church to bring many other blessings—friendships with fellow believers, growth through relationships with those who differ from you, and opportunities to practice mercy and grace with people you might not naturally choose. In these and many other ways, belonging to a local church is good for you, your family, and the world around you.

God instituted the weekly gathering of believers for His glory, for our mutual need, and for our shared mission to take the Gospel to the nations. From the earliest days of the church, these gatherings have rightly included Bible teaching and preaching, prayer, praise, gratitude, encouragement, fellowship, giving, and service.

You need to be consistently present and involved in church. A professing Christian who deliberately and persistently neglects gathering with a local church lives in disobedience to God's command. Your family also needs to be there—worshiping, learning, growing, praying, giving, and serving together. As we are faithful in our own homes and congregations, we help fulfill a greater mission: the world needs Bible-anchored churches everywhere, because their faithful presence drives back evil and radiates the light of Christ.

Is worship with God's people a settled priority in your life, or something you approach only when convenient? How is God using the people in your church—both those who encourage you and those who challenge you—to shape your character? In what ways are you contributing to your local church rather than merely receiving from it? What habits or distractions might be keeping you from experiencing the full blessing of faithful church involvement?

Prayerfully ask the Lord to deepen your love for His church and to strengthen your commitment to gather with His people. Pray for a sincere heart to worship, serve, fellowship, give, and grow in Christ.