



Ephesians 5:23-27 Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ... Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her

holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

2.) Within this context the gatherings of the church are more than purely social occasions. These are sacred opportunities for God's grace and guidance to come to us. What then might such gatherings generally include?

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

1 Corinthians 11:17ff (Paul gives instructions on when the Corinthians come together to celebrate the Lord's Supper and have a fellowship (agape) meal.

1 Corinthians 14:26 What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.

3.) How does Jesus want to bless us through corporate worship?

Psalms 119:18 Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.

2 Timothy 3:15-17 ...The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

John 17:17 "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."

Matthew 18:19-20 "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Exodus 20:22,24 "The LORD said . . . 'Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you.' "

4.) What spiritual benefits do we bring to each other in worship?

1 Corinthians 14:26 What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.

Hebrews 10:24-25 Let us . . . not [give] up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

5.) List some ways we encourage one another in worship.

6.) What does the writer of Hebrews teach us about the importance of reading the Bible or worshiping together?

Hebrews 3:12-14 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. ¹⁴ We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.

7.) List some examples from Scripture demonstrate that God has not designed humans to face life as rugged individuals but with the encouragement and assistance of others.

Group Discussion

- Respond to this statement: "I know I haven't been to church, but God and me—we're good—I pray every night."
- List what you feel are the keys for a healthy relationship. How does believing this lie line up with fulfilling those keys?