

WHEN WE GATHER

WEEK 8: WORSHIP AND THE ONE ANOTHER'S

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

Acts 2:44 ~ “And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common.”

Acts 20:7 ~ “On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together...”

- Christians since the birth of the church have gathered together for a purpose that they might praise God and grow together in truth; then they depart to spread the gospel of our Savior.
- Many churches will gather together today, and it might look quite different from one church to another. But all that we do has a purpose.
- Over the course of this mini class, we will look more closely at why we do what we do when we gather. Why do we do it when we do it? Why don't we do more? Why do some churches do less?
- We will look at what might be too much, what might be wrong, and why.
- The nature of the class will provide a Biblical foundation that shapes how and why we gather.
- Schedule:
 - SEP-MAR: Call to Worship, Music, Giving, Scripture Reading, Prayer, Word, Ordinances
 - April 12: One Another's
 - May-June: Miscellaneous Service Items, Gather to Scatter

WHY DO WE GATHER?

Hebrews 10:24-25 ~ “and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

- Ultimately, we worship the Lord in whatever we do (Romans 12:1-2) and worship him individually as well as corporately (John 4:23-24; 1 Cor 10:31).
- Working Purpose Statement of our Worship Services: When we weekly gather together according to the Word of God, we aim to **vertically worship** and grow in spiritual wisdom and knowledge of God and **horizontally encourage**, equip and edify one another, by the power of the Spirit who sanctifies, to the praise of the glory of the risen Christ, and for the bold gospel witness as we scatter, until the Lord returns.

GATHERING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- When we gather to worship, it is a “*we*” activity!
- The one-another’s are not optional- they are an essential part of gathering!

1 Corinthians 14:12 ~ ...*strive to excel in building up the church.*

Ephesians 4:16 ~ *joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

- So many of the commands to the church **CANNOT be obeyed without each other.**
 - The expectation is that the church knows one another and grows with one another.
 - “Encouraging one another” is just theory if we don’t speak to each other.
- The corporate worship we do happens in the context of other-focused involvement.
 - Those who come to receive a service and leave immediately....
 - in a sense were not really a part of the church despite being there.
- Even the fruit produced in each of us individually by the Spirit are not “rogue gifts”

Gal 5:22-23 ~ *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

- Most of these require others to demonstrate them!

And look at Gal 5:26 ~ *Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.*

- There are things we are to avoid together as well

Praise is in the context of one another.

Hebrews 13:15-19 ~ *Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. 16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. 17 Obey your (PLURAL) leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your (PLURAL) souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you (PLURAL). 18 Pray (PLURAL) for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things. 19 And I urge you all the more to do this, so that I may be restored to you (PLURAL) the sooner.*

- **Praise** God together;
- **Do good** to others;
- **Share** with others;
- **Obey** leaders, submitting, all;
- **Pray** for others

“Do not neglect gathering... But encourage one another”

Hebrews 10:24-25 ~ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

- This is part of 3 commands for believers to Draw near (22), Hold fast (23), and Consider (24).
- What must we consider? Not merely noticing or recognizing, but learning by careful attention
- Action: We must **give thought to one another**. “One another” is the object of the verb.
- Purpose: to stimulate love and good deeds among us (rousing to activity, *stirring up, provoking*)¹
- Means: By **means** of gathering with one another! Not neglecting to assemble.
- Means: Growing mutual encouragement is **how** we will learn about one another.
- Result:
 - We will draw near to God in faith,
 - hold fast to the confidence of hope,
 - and give thought to and encourage one another in love in the gathering of our church.

Many today view church as a personal experience, with individual goals and expectations.

Just as our definition on page 1 states, we gather to worship God (vertical) and equip and edify one another (horizontal).

DISCUSSION

- How can you tell if you are neglecting others in our church?
- How often is often enough or not often enough?
- Which one-another’s should I start with?
- What if I’m an introvert?
- Don’t we encourage one another during the service by singing and teaching to one another?

Colossians 3:16 ~ **Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing *one another* with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, **singing** with thankfulness in your hearts to God.**

- What do I do if I don’t feel like I’m being encouraged enough?
- How can I be a part of ensuring everyone is benefiting from the one another’s?

¹ BDAG, 780.

ONE ANOTHER'S OF SCRIPTURE:²

- Be at peace /Don't be divisive/Live in harmony/Pursue unity with one another: Mark 9:50; Rom 12:16)
- Love one another: John 15:17; Rom 13:8; 2 Thess 1:3
- Welcome/Greet one another: Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; Phil 4:21; Heb 13:24
- Be devoted to one another: Rom 12:10
- Do good to one another: Gal 6:10
- Give preference to one another: Rom 12:10
- Be sympathetic to one another: 1 Pet 3:8
- Treat one another like family: 1 Pet 3:8
- Be kind to one another: 1 Pet 3:8
- Be humble toward one another: Phil 2:3; 1 Pet 5:5
- Consider one another more important than yourself: Phil 2:3
- Contribute to one another's needs impartially: Rom 12:13
- Wash one another's feet: John 13:14
- Outdo one another in honor: Rom 12:10
- Don't judge one another in grey areas: Rom 14:13
- Build up/Encourage one another: Rom 14:19; 1 Thess 5:11
- Admonish one another: Rom 15:14; Col 3:16
- Restore one another: Gal 6:1
- Counsel one another: 1 Thess 5:14
- Refresh one another: Philemon 7,
- Stir up one another: Heb 10:24
- Sing to one another: Eph 5:19
- Serve one another: Gal 5:13
- Submit to one another according to God's design: Eph 5:21; Heb 13:17
- Excel still more in your "one anothers": 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 ~
- Comfort one another with the second coming: 1 Thess 4:17-18
- Contend for the next generation of "one anothers": Jude 3
- Appreciate the "one anothers" who are your leaders: 1 Thess 5:12
- Show hospitality to one another: 1 Pet 4:9
- Fellowship with one another: 1 John 1:7
- Watch out that you don't consume one another: Gal 5:15
- Do not provoke one another: Gal 5:26
- Do not lie to one another: Eph 4:25; Col 3:9
- Do not envy one another: Gal 5:26
- Forgive one another: Eph 4:32; Col 3:13
- Confess your sins to one another: James 5:16
- Pray for one another: James 5:16; Eph 6:18
- Bear one another's burdens: Gal 6:2; Eph 4:2
- Do not speak evil against one another: James 4:11
- Do not grumble against one another: James 5:9
- Keep your eye on certain "one anothers": Rom 16:17
- Keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life...: 2 Thess 3:6
- Do not associate with so-called brothers if ____: 1 Cor 5:11
- Reject certain "one anothers": Titus 3:10-11 **"Reject a factious man"**
- Do not deprive one another (this "one another" can only be obeyed in marriage): 1 Cor 7:5

"Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more."

² Daron Roberts, "Proactive Discipleship" <https://www.mbcmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Proactive-Discipleship-Daron-Roberts.pdf>