

WHEN WE GATHER

WEEK 9: WORSHIP AND THE MISCELLANEOUS

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 3: Miscellaneous Service Items,
 - June 21: 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.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS IN SERVICES

Announcements/Welcome

- Equipping and edifying
- Making opportunity to further exalt/equip/evangelize
- Communicating the vision and mission of the church for visitors
- Encouraging steps of individual growth
- Special welcome to individuals: Caution not to show undue favoritism.
- Regular Spotlights on people, ministry, testimonies, births, deaths
- Special Services and Events (Baptisms, Lord's Supper, Funerals, Weddings)

Cultural or World Events mentioned

- Caution: how often? We must neither over emphasize nor be unaware
- Caution: what message is communicated? Does this further help the people or distract them

Ministry Moments

- Highlight Certain ministries of our church
- Encourage house to house worship, hospitality, one-another's, love to God, love to others.
- Gently teach and train where there may be a lack or encourage to continue still more!

Missions Moments

- Emphasis of the mission of the church
- Motivation to serve, train, send out our own- Compel to give, pray, go

Graduation Sundays

- Honor those who have completed a point in life of completion
- Encourage toward godliness in the next season
- Opportunity for prayer at these benchmarks of life

Veterans Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day

- Similar to Graduations, it is an opportunity to honor those who serve one another
- Unique roles that our society and culture recognize- it might be strange if we did not honor them.
- Caution: not to elevate one profession or calling above others.
- But caution not to make allegiance to country above God or elevating patriotism above worship.
- Holidays?

Silence

- Would a time in the service be appropriate for reflection, individual prayer, and preparation?

Creeds and Confessions, and Historical Prayers

- Reciting historical teaching or prayers can have a place to be read.
- The value of these lies in testimony, not its authority.