

# Why Do We Gather Together?

Hebrews 10:19-28

# 10 Reasons Even Committed Church Attenders are Attending Less

1. Greater affluence
2. Higher focus on kids' activities
3. More travel
4. Blended and single parent families
5. Online options
6. The cultural disappearance of guilt.
7. Self-directed spirituality
8. Failure to see a direct benefit.
9. Valuing attendance over engagement
10. A massive culture shift

Do you attend or do  
you belong?

{19} Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, {20} by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, {21} and since we have a great priest over the house of God, {22} let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. [Hebrews 10:19-22 ESV]

# The Veil Has Been Torn

- When we come to worship together, we must first believe that we are coming before God in confidence by the blood of Christ.
- Jesus' flesh was torn that the veil may be torn.
  - No flesh can stand before God - it will die.
  - The Spirit and the flesh cannot coexist.
  - {13} *For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.* [Romans 8:13 NKJV]

{20} But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." {21} And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. {22} "So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. {23} "Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen." [Exodus 33:20-23 NKJV]

# Meet, Confess, Stir, Encourage...Repeat

{23} Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. {24} And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, {25} not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. [Hebrews 10:23-25 ESV]

# Meet Together

- “{25} not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some...”
  - It’s important that we meet together and there is warfare around getting together.
    - Culture for your kids
    - Encouragement
    - Bringing your contribution (faith, service, encouragement, etc.)



We get religious about  
not being religious.

# Confess to One Another

- {23} Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.”
  - Confess the hope of the gospel to one another - i.e. testimonies, wisdom, revelation
  - Being strengthened by our brothers and sisters
  - What is your contribution? What are you bringing to the table?

# Spur One Another

- “{24} And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works..”
  - Stir - spur on, incite for good
  - Spurring people into love (God’s love for them and God’s love through them)
  - Spurring people into kingdom works
    - {12} "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. [John 14:12 ESV]

# Encourage One Another

- Encourage (parakaleo)
  - To call to one side, to call to one's side, call for, summon
- Helper (paracletos)
  - summoned, called to one's side, esp. called to one's aid
- When we gather together, Holy Spirit will use us to fulfill His ministry to one another.

# A Warning Against Nominal Christianity

{26} For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, {27} but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. {28} Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

{29} How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? {30} For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." {31} It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.  
[Hebrews 10:26-31 ESV]