

FREEDOM

Christian Church

Why do we need Church?



Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10v25

This is the clearest verse in Scripture reminding us of the importance of attending church. This study is not just about why we should attend church regularly, it is designed to ask a larger question why we need church?



What did the early believers feel the need to do? Acts 2v46, 5v12
How would you define Church?

The answer is they meet together. It doesn't seem to have been a strongly regulated thing, just something they needed to do.

Why do you think they felt the need to meet together?

This emphasis continues through the New Testament. When Paul addresses church discipline in Corinth, he uses the phrase 'when you come together' 1 Cor 11 & 14. It was obvious that there were times when believers came together to worship God, and to be taught.



What would have happened if the early believers had not formed themselves into groups?

Church structure runs through the New Testament, the church could not survive or grow without it.



*For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18v20
I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Psalm 122v1*

What do these verses tell us about Church?



Read Hebrews 10v25 again.

Why do you think the writer of Hebrews did not want them to stop meeting together?

Why do you think some of them have done so?

What do you think the word habit implies?

What reason does he give for the need to meet?



Habit implies it is a general tenancy.

What is likely to happen to an individual who neglects church?

Is there a time curve involved here?



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! Christians are compared in the bible to sheep, (a not entirely flattering metaphor). When a wolf attacks sheep it will always go for the isolated sheep. The isolate sheep is the most vulnerable.

How does this apply to the Church?

The idea is that the church can support and protect the individual. That together we can be stronger than our individual parts and that together we can grow more and serve Christ better. This is implied by Hebrews telling us to encourage one another. This is not just to encourage people to attend church, but to encourage them in their faith.

? **When a person who attends church hits a crisis (physical or spiritual) what should happen?**

If a person does not attend church and a crisis hits what is likely to happen?

What reason do Christians give for not wanting to attend Church?

To what extent are these reasons valid?

Reason

Validity

✓		
X		
?		

 *As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things. 1 John 2v27*

In theory Christian can survive without being a part of a group.

? **Are Christians who do not attend church except for the commands God has given?** (eg. Great Commission)

How can such a person compensate for the lack of involvement in a church?

The Holy Spirit will teach them, they have the Bible, countless books and Christian TV. Things like worship and prayer can all be done individually, they can still witness and give to mission, they can even find ways to fellowship with other Christians.

What dangers face this kind of Christian?

What part does community play in Christian life?

They might intend to do all these things, they may even start out doing them, but over time they, their good intention will fall by the wayside. They end up a believer in Jesus, but neglecting all the things He commands us to do. Their faith becomes a personal thing between them and God.

? **Is our faith just a personal thing?**
What are the dangers of it becoming so?

We are here to do God's will, in worship, service and evangelism. When our faith becomes introverted it ceases to achieve what God intended for it. It is God's aim not only that the individual makes it to heaven, but that we become salt for a fallen world and that on earth His will is done.

3 Those who don't fellowship fall into three categories;
Those who backslide.
Those who stagnate and introvert.
Those who grow and mature becoming active in their faith.

The first group is by far the largest. It takes an outstanding Christian just to hold their own without the support of a church. Even then they tend to be unproductive in their faith. The last group, those who against all the odds pull through, are very few and far between. To those who do not want to fellowship the message is clear, the numbers are against you.

? As a solo believer you see a friend saved.
What do you need to do now?
What happens if you don't do this?

You don't believe in attending church, but you need to disciple them, this means meeting with them to teach them how to pray and understand the bible, so you meet with them regularly.

What have you just done?

 Congratulations, you have just reinvented the wheel, church by another name.



Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honoured his name. Malachi 3v16



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Why do we need Church? - Work sheet

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. A vertical red margin line runs down the left side of the page. The paper appears to be part of a binder or folder, as evidenced by the dark binding material visible along the left edge. There are some faint, light-colored smudges or marks on the paper, particularly near the top and bottom edges.

[illegible]

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." 1 Corinthians 15:33

What happens if you swear in church?

Church is a redemptive community.

How is this similar to peer pressure?



Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. 1 Timothy 4v13

It is in church that we learn about God.

Church provides us with motivation to continue to grow and correct the things in us that are wrong. We need others who will speak into our lives and help us to move forward. We need church to stimulate us and provoke us. This happens not only through teaching but through interaction with others.

We also need others that will keep us from wrong doctrine and wrong practices. We need accountability.



Church is to be a healing community.



He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Mark 16v15

We are surrounded by church and para-church organizations, without the church few of these would survive. This is most clearly seen in mission and large-scale outreach, both rely on organized churches for their support.



How would the lack of churches effect the great commission?

What does this say about those who don't want to be part of a church?

Church is to be a prophetic community



These include worshipping and praying collectively. They also include service. Beyond this we need to be involved, church facilitates this. Church is an active community.