

The Church Assembles For More Than Worship

(The Assemblies of The Church Series - #4)

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Review

On each first day of the week, Christians should assemble to worship God in spirit and in truth.

When the NT church met to worship, they observed the Lord's Supper, prayed, gave, sang, read scripture, and studied the Word. They did all of that in a fitting and proper manner.

We worship in song - without instruments - because a cappella singing is authorized in Scripture, is the historical practice of Christianity, is preferable for spiritual worship, is consistent with our restoration plea, and is able to unify Christians.

WHY Does the Church Assemble ?

The number and content of NT passages that refer to Christians assembling together make it clear that this is part of what it means to be a member of the body of Christ.

Hebrews 10:25 warns us not to forsake our "assembling together."

While worshiping God is the main purpose of our regular Sunday assembly, we also assemble for other purposes and may assemble at other times. The Bible actually pictures believers meeting together for four purposes...

1. The Believer to God purpose is _____.

Psalm 34:1-3

I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.

John 4:23,24

...true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.

2. The God to Believer purpose is _____, and

1 Peter 2:5 You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Christ Jesus.

To grow (physically or spiritually) we need the proper:

_____ and _____

the Believer to Believer purpose is also _____.

1 Thess. 5:11 Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Cor. 14:26 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.

Heb. 10:24,25 and let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...

3. Another Believer to Believer purpose is _____.

Rom. 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss.

4. The Believer to Unbeliever purpose is _____.

In the NT, Christians went to where unbelievers assembled to evangelize (*Acts 17:17*), but unbelievers were sometimes present in their assemblies (*1 Cor. 14:24*). While the services were not designed for unbelievers, they were to present a positive witness to them.

The Assembly on the Lord's Day...

The Sunday assembly should accomplish all four purposes.

We should have a proper balance and understanding of our purpose when assembled.

Other Assemblies...

The whole church - or specific groups - may assemble at other times and places to accomplish the four purposes of assembling.