

WHY YOU NEED THE COVENANT FELLOWSHIP CULTURE OF YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

Heb. 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

EIGHT REASONS WHY YOU AND I SHOULD NOT FORSAKE THE ASSEMBLY OF GOD'S PEOPLE:

1. **God gave the local church a place it should meet regularly.** This reinforces our need for a set time each week for quality focus on both God's presence and his Word. **ACTS 2:42-47**
2. **It is the Sabbath for Jew and Gentile.** The local church is a type shadow of this very important principle. God wants us to take our sabbath day serious with an attitude of faithfulness and active participation. **Ex. 20:8-11**
3. **It is the place people receive the word written by the finger of God for edification.** **Ex. 25:30, Ex. 35:13, 1 Chron. 9:32**. When David was running from Saul he ran into the temple to find the shewbread (preached word).
4. **It is the designated place for the one God people to fellowship in Apostolic culture.** Nothing replaces apostolic preaching and corporate prayer. This is essential for healthy personal spiritual growth. This keeps our focus on the kingdom of Jesus Christ and avoiding the seductions of pagan, humanistic, and worldly influences into our personal lifestyle. **1 Cor. 14:26, 1 Cor. 1:9**
5. **We demonstrate holiness living.** Separation living unto a Holy God is paramount in this very dark hour we live in. The Old Testament priest came to the tabernacle of Moses and washed continually from the sent of Moab (societal paganism and perversion). We must have the holiness of His presence corporately to live a balanced life. When people go astray spiritually many times it's because they take on an independent attitude and begin digesting false doctrines and perverted revelations. This begins when one becomes consistently unfaithful to the local church. **2 Thes. 2:1, 1 Cor. 5:4, 1 Peter 2:9, Romans 12:1-2**
6. **It is the place where corporate vision is casted.** We must hear the voice of the local shepherd and the five fold ministry continuously in order to walk in a healthy spiritual lifestyle. The five fold ministry must give an account for the members of a church. This becomes difficult when they are inconsistent with attendance to the local house of God. This is where we receive the inspiration for global and home missions in a corporate effort. **Lev. 8:4, Prov. 11:14, Prov. 24:6**
7. **It is the place we exercise our personal gifting.** The parable of the talents depicted a man who buried his talent into the earth. He gave the best of his gifts and talents to the world and not the local church. The local church is where we perfect and mature our personal gifts. We perfect these gifts with our faithful local church attendance. **Matthew 25:14-30, Gal. 6:10**

8. **It is the place we convert and mentor people.** We develop our ability to get along with the saints when faithful to the local house of God. Years ago a patriarch of the Apostolic movement, J.T. Pugh, told me, “God builds a sloppy church”. He takes the mess and dysfunctional aspects of our lives and shapes His Word beauty and nailed scarred character in us. So we may work in harmony with each other. We sharpen our gifts and talents in this manner as well. The local church is the place we give an account for the validity of our conversions and membership reproduction. Jesus told people in **Luke 17:14** go and show thyself to the priest for verification they were made whole. In **Acts 2:42-47** it reemphasizes our need for accountability one to another.

Your responsibility to local church accountability.

1. To plan and prepare to contribute when called upon (being instant in season and out of season). We come to serve and not be served.
2. To promote the saints to be faithful to the Sabbath with phone calls, emails, and personal edification.
3. Being on time for church, your assignments, and pre-service prayer (take initiative to contribute in these areas).
4. Helping the local church leadership plan for daughter works for multiple services according to its vision.
5. Model worship and altar call in the services yourself.
6. Greet the guest and visitors in every service.
7. Pray for the covering running the services because the warfare can be overwhelming at times.
8. Support all other departments when it has nothing to do with your assignments and department.
9. Pay your tithes and give in the offerings. Attending the house of God without doing this is living in a house and not paying rent to the landlord while enjoying the amenities of the house.
10. Be available for special church projects, clean ups, renovations, repairs, etc. God took issue with Israel in the book of **Haggai 1:3-5** over this.

As we see church attendance decline throughout America, God has already factored in His own plan to have a powerful remnant bride who will lay her life down for His name sake. For God always desired to have a place for His name and His glory! We clearly understand a building in and of itself does not make up the local church but God uses designated places to declare His glory in the Earth! Let us be an example during these warm months full of distractions and vacations the privilege to attend our local house of God. The Book of Revelation refers to the shepherd and the local church as a candlestick he will remove if I do not cherish and value it in the fear of the Lord.

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