

Sunday – September 28, 2025

Fall Series: Why Church? Why Not?



We are all part of some group in our lifetime. High School clubs, sports clubs, hobby groups, etc. We look to bond together with people who share common interests, ideas and values. As disciples of Jesus we are called to be a part of a group called, “the church.” What is it that makes this group so special, and why is it God’s best idea for me to flourish in life?

Key Verse. *“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another —and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:24-25).*

BACKGROUND:

In Psalm 1 God gives us his goal for our lives. *“Blessed is the one...”* (Psalm 1:3). The word “blessed” is the word, “happy” (Asher- Gen 30:3). It is defined as, “A deep, joy-filled contentment formed by relationship with God that cannot be shaken by poverty, grief, famine, persecution, war, or any other trial or tragedy we face in life.” It is to be discovered, grown and lived best in the company of like minded people- God’s family. The NT describes this family as the church- the place where we are to flourish. So how does God’s community help us to flourish?

God’s Community Helps Us to _____What’s Important

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42).

-consider- “to thoughtfully, intentionally keep what is important in front of us”

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23. What are the important things I need to keep in front of me as a disciple? Where do we/I sometimes get off track and lose focus?

God’s Community Helps Us to _____One Another On

“Love one another. As I have loved you so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34–35).

We _____ each other to love God, to love each other and we practically demonstrate that love to each other.

God’s Community Helps Us to _____Together

“You don’t get the community you want; you get the community you create”

“so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others” (Romans 12:5).

God’s Community Helps Us to be _____

“Therefore encourage one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:18)

Do I tend to look for ways of encouraging others, or critiquing others?

This week:

- When challenged this week to “go along with the crowd” in conversation or action, how can knowing being a part of this community give me courage to say or act differently?
- Who and how can I encourage someone in their walk with Jesus this week?
- What one thing can I do to help strengthen God’s church so we can better strengthen each other?

Next Week: “Flourishing with Open Hearts and Hands”