



The Church Gathers

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

June 28, 2026

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. – Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT

The gathering of the church is not a casual event to attend when convenient; it is a Christ-purchased privilege and a God-ordained necessity for worship, perseverance, and mutual encouragement.

What makes church gathering necessary? – Heb 10:19-25

- I. We Gather Because Christ Has Opened the _____ to _____ (vs. 19-22)
Cp. Ephesians 2:13, 18; Romans 5:1-2; John 4:23-24
- II. We Gather Together to Hold Fast the _____ of our _____ (vs. 23)
Cp. Col. 1:21-23; 1 Cor. 15:58; Eph. 4:11-14; Heb. 3:12-14
- III. We Gather to Stir One Another Up to _____ and _____ (vs. 24-25a)
Cp. Gal. 6:2; Rom. 12:10, 15; 1 Thess. 5:11; Eph. 4:16; 1 Pet. 4:10
- IV. We Gather Because _____ Is _____, especially as the Day Is Near (vs. 25)
Cp. Eccl. 4:9-12; Prov. 18:1; 1 Pet. 5:8; Heb. 3:13; Rom. 13:11-12

So What ...

If God says you need the gathering, casual neglect is not a _____ problem; it is a _____ problem.

Isolation may feel _____, it is not only stepping toward spiritual lethargy, but also _____ for the individual.

The church gathers not to _____, but to _____ each other.

Appointment with God – Prayer Focus

THE LORD'S TOP PRIORITY—RELATIONSHIPS!

Father God, You emphatically and repeatedly state that our relationships with YOU and with OTHERS are Your top priority. You also clearly state that all principles, laws, and commandments are facets of how our relationships are to be lived out. We demonstrate our love for You and for others by OBEYING Your precepts. Our actions are to be determined by Your truths, not our emotions.

[Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:37-40; Mark 12:30-31; Luke 10:27; John 14:15, 23 for starters]

LORD, OPEN MY EYES AND WORK IN MY HEART. MAY I DEMONSTRATE LOVE.

Wherever there appears to be discord, may we give thanks that the discord is now in the open...not festering and growing inside of us. May we look at the discord as a prompt from You, Lord, to seek Your will in the relationship. May we base our decisions and actions on Your truths...not our emotions, not our own understanding. Open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts to receive You and love the way You love. May we be moldable in Your hands as clay is to the potter. Help me not to judge others, but to be their prayer warrior for You to move in their lives. May OUR top priority be You and Your will in relationships, just as it is YOUR top priority.

[Ps. 51:10; Jer. 18:1-17; Rom. 8:27; Col. 2:2; 1 Thess. 3:12; Matt. 7:1-5 for starters]

GOD, HELP US CHANGE INGRAINED AND DESTRUCTIVE THOUGHT PATTERNS!

Lord, I come to You in stillness and ready to listen. Reveal to me where I am closing my eyes, ears, and heart to You. Show me, Lord, where I grieve You. Light my path, Father, to where I must choose Your ways over my thoughts and emotions. May You be glorified in my relationships as You lead and guide me. You say you are in the midst of us wherever two or three are gathered. I pray that we constantly listen for You as we navigate through rough relationships.

[Matt. 6:33; Romans 14:13; John 13:34; Eph. 4:2-3; James 5:16; 1 John 5:16 for starters]

Father, I choose to write down all You speak to me about my relationships—where I need to repent, restore, validate. I am accountable to You to live out Your commands. Help me avoid justifying my actions. May You be glorified.



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So What ...

If God says you need the gathering, casual neglect is not a scheduling problem; it is a spiritual problem.

Isolation may feel easier, it is not only stepping toward spiritual lethargy, but also dangerous for the individual.

The church gathers not to fill a room, but to strengthen each other.

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