

Satan's Temptations to Avoid Gathering

(and a biblical response)

- "I don't need to go to church to be a Christian"

God describes true Christians as desiring corporate worship, instruction, fellowship, & being obedient to His commands.

- "The church is not a building, the people are the church"

God calls the people of the church out of their homes to gather together in worship. The church is not passive, it is active.

- "I'm safer at home"

God calls us to gather, even in the midst of risky situations.

- "_____ Church is a bunch of cliques"

God calls us into small groups and fellowship, even if it is hard.

- "_____ Church is a bunch of hypocrites"

God calls uses the church gatherings to heal & grow the sinful.

- "_____ Church don't meet my needs...I'm not getting fed"

God calls us to serve, not to be served.

Church is about God, not us.

- "There are better sermons/worship online"

God calls us into local fellowships, not just online resources.

Watching at a distance can never replace participating in person.

- "It's too early....I'm too busy...I'm too tired"

God calls us to give Him 1 full day a week & to prepare for His return.

Your Presence Reveals Your Priorities:

5 Steps Forward Together To Gather

1. Admit Your Need to Gather
2. Confess Your Past Sinful Failures
3. Ask God for Help to Resist Satan's Temptations
4. Protect Your Lord's Day - 1 Day a Week
5. Make Your "Church Ethic" Exceed Your "Work Ethic" - Practice Mutual Accountability

Let's learn and grow together as we await the return of our Lord and Savior! He died for us, let's live & gather for Him!

Why We Gather

Jeremiah 3:15-17 (ESV)

"And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. And when you have multiplied and been fruitful in the land, in those days, declares the LORD, they shall no more say, 'The ark of the covenant of the LORD.' It shall not come to mind or be remembered or missed; it shall not be made again. At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the LORD, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the LORD in Jerusalem, and they shall no more stubbornly follow their own evil heart."

We Gather because God Chose and Called Us Out of Isolation and Into Our P_____ To Gather

1 Corinthians 12:18 "But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose."

We Gather because We Need Each Other; the Body A_____, Not Disassembled

1 Corinthians 12:21 "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'

We Gather to S_____ & Celebrate Together

1 Corinthians 12:26-27 "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

We Gather to S_____ God

1 Corinthians 12:27 "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

We Gather, because Outside the Church is Dangerously Described as S_____ 's Realm

1 John 5:19 "We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

(see also... 1 Corinthians 5:5, Luke 4:5-6, & Ephesians 2:2)

We Gather In Person, In Spite of R_____, Because God Commands Us

Hebrews 10:24-25 “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near”

www.trustworthyword.com/risk

We Gather Together As a Foretaste of our H_____ Gathering

1 Thessalonians 4:17 “Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.”

We Gather for Lasting J___ in God and One Another

2 John 12 “Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete. “

We Gather, Because Separation Leads to G_____

Acts 20:37–38 “And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.”

We Gather, As a Local F_____ of Sheep Waiting, Preparing, and Uniting for the Chief Shepherd

1 Peter 5:2–4 “shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

We Gather, because “Online Church” Is Not A Real Church - Don’t S_____ for Less than what God Commands

3 John 14 “I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.”

Although Connecting to Your Church Family
Via Online Live Streams May Be An Occasional Necessity,
“Online Church” is Not an Ongoing Reality

Online Live Streaming of Our Church Services Serves As...

- Outreach to believers disconnected from a local church
- Evangelism to unbelievers needing to hear the Gospel
- Encouragement to those temporarily disconnected from our local church due to travel, sickness, or disability
- A blessing to our homebound church members who are unable to leave their home

We Gather because We have been P_____ for Purpose

Acts 20:28 “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.”

When we don’t gather together...

- We disobey God
- We miss our purpose
- We endanger ourselves to Satan, the world, and our flesh
- We grieve our local body of Christ
- We disable and weaken our local body of Christ
- We isolate ourselves relationally, emotionally, physically, mentally, and spiritually

How have you handled the last year?

How can you improve in the year ahead?

1 Thessalonians 2:17 “But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face”

Why We Gather

Jeremiah 3:15-17 (ESV)

“And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. And when you have multiplied and been fruitful in the land, in those days, declares the LORD, they shall no more say, ‘The ark of the covenant of the LORD.’ It shall not come to mind or be remembered or missed; it shall not be made again. At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the LORD, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the LORD in Jerusalem, and they shall no more stubbornly follow their own evil heart.”

We Gather because God Chose and Called Us Out of Isolation and Into Our Purpose To Gather

1 Corinthians 12:18 “But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.”

We Gather because We Need Each Other; the Body Assembled, Not Disassembled

1 Corinthians 12:21 “The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’”

We Gather to Suffer & Celebrate Together

1 Corinthians 12:26–27 “If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”

We Gather to Serve God

1 Corinthians 12:27 “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”

We Gather, because Outside the Church is Dangerously Described as Satan’s Realm

1 John 5:19 “We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

(see also... 1 Corinthians 5:5, Luke 4:5–6, & Ephesians 2:2)

We Gather In Person, In Spite of Risk, Because God Commands Us

Hebrews 10:24-25 “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near”

www.trustworthyword.com/risk

We Gather Together As a Foretaste of our Heavenly Gathering

1 Thessalonians 4:17 “Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.”

We Gather for Lasting Joy in God and One Another

2 John 12 “Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete. “

We Gather, Because Separation Leads to Grief

Acts 20:37–38 “And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.”

We Gather, As a Local Flock of Sheep Waiting, Preparing, and Uniting for the Chief Shepherd

1 Peter 5:2–4 “shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

We Gather, because “Online Church” Is Not A Real Church - Don’t Settle for Less than what God Commands

3 John 14 “I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.”

Although Connecting to Your Church Family
Via Online Live Streams May Be An Occasional Necessity,
“Online Church” is Not an Ongoing Reality

Online Live Streaming of Our Church Services Serves As...

- Outreach to believers disconnected from a local church
- Evangelism to unbelievers needing to hear the Gospel
- Encouragement to those temporarily disconnected from our local church due to travel, sickness, or disability
- A blessing to our homebound church members who are unable to leave their home

We Gather because We have been Purchased for Purpose

Acts 20:28 “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.”

When we don’t gather together...

- We disobey God
- We miss our purpose
- We endanger ourselves to Satan, the world, and our flesh
- We grieve our local body of Christ
- We disable and weaken our local body of Christ
- We isolate ourselves relationally, emotionally, physically, mentally, and spiritually

How have you handled the last year?

How can you improve in the year ahead?

1 Thessalonians 2:17 “But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face”

Satan’s Temptations to Avoid Gathering

(and a biblical response)

- “I don’t need to go to church to be a Christian”
God describes true Christians as desiring corporate worship, instruction, fellowship, & being obedient to His commands.
- “The church is not a building, the people are the church”
God calls the people of the church out of their homes to gather together in worship. The church is not passive, it is active.
- “I’m safer at home”
God calls us to gather, even in the midst of risky situations.
- “_____ Church is a bunch of cliques”
God calls us into small groups and fellowship, even if it is hard.
- “_____ Church is a bunch of hypocrites”
God calls uses the church gatherings to heal & grow the sinful.
- “_____ Church don’t meet my needs...I’m not getting fed”
*God calls us to serve, not to be served.
Church is about God, not us.*
- “There are better sermons/worship online”
*God calls us into local fellowships, not just online resources.
Watching at a distance can never replace participating in person.*
- “It’s too early....I’m too busy...I’m too tired”
God calls us to give Him 1 full day a week & to prepare for His return.

Your Presence Reveals Your Priorities: 5 Steps Forward Together To Gather

1. Admit Your Need to Gather
2. Confess Your Past Sinful Failures
3. Ask God for Help to Resist Satan’s Temptations
4. Protect Your Lord’s Day - 1 Day a Week
5. Make Your “Church Ethic” Exceed Your “Work Ethic” - Practice Mutual Accountability

Let’s learn and grow together as we await the return of our Lord and Savior! He died for us, let’s live & gather for Him!