**Gather, Together.**

1. Have you ever wondered *why* the church is called to gather together?  Why can’t we just turn on some worship music on TV, watch a sermon on YouTube, read the Bible on our iPhones, and then share our prayer requests with others on Facebook...? Or some variation of that? Why is it that we are called to specifically gather together as a church in one place? We sometimes here someone people say to us that they do not have to come to the church before confessing that Jesus is Savior. Some do not see the necessity of coming to the church. Some people even say that Jesus did not have church. If it is that Jesus did not have Church, **why then do we need to gather on Sunday morning together at a specific place called church to worship?**  **Why must we gather and be together? Is there a difference between gather and together? Jesus said where two or three are gather together in his name he is in their midst. Why did Jesus say this?**
* **Gather:** congregate, assemble, collect……
* **Together:** in conjunction, one accord, as one, hand in hand, jointly…….
1. **Difference between gather and together:** the name of Jesus and the Holy Spirit gather us in groups so that we can form one body that works with one accord. Working in one accord is to be together.
2. **Why Should Christians Gather Together?**

**Biblical recommendation**: “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.” The writer of Hebrew’s book is encouraging us to not neglect to meet and we should encourage one another to come to our meeting. Why is this important?

1. **Connection with the heaven:** In Matthew we hear Jesus teaching us about our connection with the heaven. “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will bebound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will beloosed in heaven.” (Matthew 18: 18).
* When we are Christians, we have the keys and power to be connected to heaven and worship together. We will work in one accord with Jesus in heaven as a team. To see this power Jesus is showing us what we must do.
1. **We gather together because Jesus recommended to agree in our prayer**. Jesus said “Again, I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 18: 19)
* **The key answer to our prayers is to ask, to pray in one accord, to agree with what we are praying for.** That means if we gather with different opinions or gather without connection to pray, our prayers might not be answered.
* **The father in heaven will grant us what we asked for if we ask jointly.** So, when it is time to pray, we all should be praying for the subjects or requests that people made. It is important to pray together. But not to listen to one person praying.
1. **Jesus’ presence in gathering together** “20For where two or three have gathered, together in My name, I am there in their midst.” (Matthew 18: 20).
* How do we come to church? Do we come in the name of Jesus? Do we come because we have family members here? Do we come because people love us? Do we come because we have responsibility? What is connecting us to the church as we gather?
* Jesus is telling us if we gather, together in his name when he is among us. Therefore, if we gather together because of our friendship, our family, fellowship or because of someone then Jesus cannot be in our midst.
* I hope that we all are here because of Jesus Christ name.
* We sometimes we say God is everywhere, but here Jesus is telling us that “where two or three have gathered, together he is in their midst.” Therefore, Jesus is present where people gather together to worship and praise his name. The presence of God in the world is different than when we get together in the name of Jesus at the Church to praise and glorify God………. Jesus is showing us the importance of being in group and in conjunction to praise him. He is present when we gather together. We see here that God is not a distant God but a close, present God who is in the midst of our worship and praise if we do are together. Gathering, together to praise God is working with God. For Jesus is saying to us “Anyone who isn’t with me opposes me, and anyone who isn’t working with me is, working against me.” (Matthew 12: 13).

 **Take away.**

* So maybe the question shouldn’t be *why* the church is called to gather together? Considering what Jesus is teaching us in Matthew 18: 18-20, perhaps the better question should be, *why shouldn’t* we people gather, together more frequently to praise, worship and pray God?
* Jesus is calling us to recognize the authority he has given us on the earth and to form a team with him in heavens by gathering together to praise and worship him. By gathering together to praise God, we will be seeking the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and everything will be given onto us. Jesus is telling us that he is always present we gather together in his name. Whenever we are coming to Church, we must know that we are coming in the name of Jesus but not because we have a friends, husband, wife, or parents present. We come together not because of one or some people but because of Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer, who recommended us to get together in his name. The things that must please us should be Jesus, his love and everything that he has done for us. If we get together because of humans, then we are not together but we gather. Let us be like the apostles who do not give up on their worship and fellowship together, “Every day they continued to meet, together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.” (Acts 2: 46). Let us build each one up for the glory of the Almighty God by gathering, together. Amen