

HABIT 5: PREPARING TO MEET TOGETHER AS A BODY!

God loves to have family celebrations. The OT introduced elaborate worship designed to help people connect with a holy and loving God. When Jesus built his church, he intended that the world would see God through his body (*Ephesians 3:10*). He promised to be present any time two or more gathered in his name (*Matthew 18:20*). The NT proclaims the priority of meeting together as a body, the need for a reverent attitude that recognizes the body of Christ, our interconnection as God's family, and the collective activities we participate in as a church. As a church, we aim to create worship services where God is present and praised and people are inspired to worship him with awe, in Spirit and truth! Let's be in the HABIT of meeting together!

Memory Verse: Acts 2:38

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Meeting Together Is Our PRIORITY

- Seek first the kingdom (*Matthew 6:33*) because Jesus is LORD!
- Prepare to encourage each other; our HABIT is to meet together. (*Hebrews 10:24-25*)

Meeting Together With The RIGHT ATTITUDE

*"Worship God acceptably with reverence and awe." (*Hebrews 12:28-29*)*

Meeting Together Is Our CONVICTION and PASSION (Acts 2:42-47)

- We need fellowship, especially when we don't feel like it! (*Hebrews 3:12-13*)
- We respect God's wisdom and the authority of God's church leaders. (*Hebrews 13:17*)
- We are part of a body; we need every part, can't say "I don't need you." (*1 Cor. 12:12-27*)
- We submit to the church leaders' authority as part of Christ's body. (*Ephesians 4:11-14*)
 - The church gathers on Sunday (*Acts 20:7, 1 Cor. 16:1-2*); "the Lord's Day." (*Rev. 1:10*)
 - Other meetings: midweek, house churches, Bible Talks, devotionals, retreats, etc.

Meeting Together Is To Have DISTINCT ELEMENTS

- **Element 1:** Come prepared to **WORSHIP**
*"Come before him" (*Psalm 100:1-3; Psalm 102:21-22*)*
- **Element 2:** Come prepared to **SING**
*"Sing and make music" (*Ephesians 5:18-20; Colossians 3:16*)*
- **Element 3:** Come prepared to **FELLOWSHIP**
*"Spur one another on" (*Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 2:42*)*
- **Element 4:** Come prepared for **CONTRIBUTION**
*"Honor the Lord with your wealth" (*Proverbs 3:9*)*
- **Element 5:** Come prepared for **COMMUNION**
*Remember Jesus' body and blood – his love for us (*Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32*)*
Examine our hearts – vertical & horizontal relationships; never take communion lightly!
- **Element 6:** Come prepared to **HEAR THE WORD OF GOD**
*"Preach the Word" (*2 Timothy 4:2; 1 Timothy 4:13; Isaiah 66:2b*)*
- **Element 7:** Come prepared to **PRAY** (*Acts 4:23-24a; Acts 12:5*)

Contributions

1. **Weekly** – support the local church (*1 Cor. 16:1*)
2. **Poor** – remember the needy (*Galatians 2:10*)
3. **Special Missions** – make disciples of all nations (*2 Cor. 9:6-7*)

Meeting Together In SPIRIT and In TRUTH

(1 Timothy 3:15; Gal. 1:8-9; Acts 2:38-39; 2 Timothy 2:24-26)

1) Truth NOT Tradition

- Jesus warned that worship in tradition is “merely human rules” and that it is “in vain.” (Matthew 15:6b-9)

2) Truth NOT False Teaching

- False/inaccurate teaching is a BIG DEAL. False teachers exist: they teach what is FALSE! (1 Peter 2:1)
- God cares about “life and doctrine.” (1 Timothy 4:16)

3) Example of Doctrinal Truth: Baptism

“Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit...” (Acts 2:38)

- Requires repentance (Greek=metanoia), a change of mind; to surrender and make Jesus Lord.
- Brings forgiveness of sins.
- Is how we receive the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:9)
- Is how we get “into Christ.” (Galatians 3:26-27)
- “Baptism now saves you...” (1 Peter 3:21)

If I've not done what God says to do, I'm not a Christian.

4) Examples of False Teachings

- **False Gospel** (Galatians 1:8-9) – *What does the Bible teach about salvation?*
 - 1) Hear the Word (Romans 10:17)
 - 2) Believe the Gospel (Faith – Hebrews 11:6)
 - 3) Repent of Sins (Luke 13:1-5, 2 Corinthians 7:10-11, Acts 2:38)
 - 4) Confess Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9, 1 Timothy 6:12, Matthew 28:18-20)
 - 5) Be baptized for forgiveness of sins and to receive gift of Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38-39)
- **False Conversions** (Romans 6:3-4) – These false teachings are NOT in the Bible!
 - 1) Infant baptism is not conversion (Colossians 2:12); conversion requires faith!
 - 2) Praying Christ into your heart is not repentance and does not make you “born again” (John 3:3-5) or give you “a new life.” (Romans 6:4)
 - 3) Accepting Jesus as your personal savior is not the same as making Jesus Lord – beware of self-centered religion!

5) Conviction about Truth

Be prepared with an answer about what the Bible says = True Teaching! (1 Peter 3:15)

- **Make Jesus' Lord** – never compromise!
- **Be Prepared** – don't be surprised by Satan's schemes!
- **Preach the Word** – with gentleness and respect!

CONCLUSION

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. (1 Corinthians 12:27)

Recommended:

- Level 2: “Baptism 2/False Doctrines” and Level 5: “The Church is the Body of Christ”

A time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” (John 4:23-24)

Inside or Outside of Christ?

The Bible never says you can

- *faith into Christ*
- *believe into Christ*
- *repent into Christ*
- *confess into Christ*
- *accept into Christ*
- *or pray into Christ*

The Bible ONLY says you can be BAPTIZED into CHRIST!