

# REDISCOVER CHURCH

## Chapter 3 - Do We Really Need To Gather?

### Introduction

In the beginning of this chapter we are reminded of gatherings that have taken place in the past few years that have drawn our attention. Most of them are protests, and when they are something that we agree with, we cheer and wish we were there. When they are on the other side, we pray they will disperse.

What is so powerful about large protests?

### Churches Gather and Are Gatherings

Think about our times that we had to shut down the church during the pandemic.

What did you like about it?

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What did you not like about it?

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How is attending a concert in person different than watching one on the Internet?

None of us would get excited if our children said, instead of getting together for Thanksgiving, why don't we just Zoom it. That way no one has to travel.

Is this just a feeling that we need to get over because we are in a new age, or is there something about gathering that God has declared is important?

Deuteronomy 16:16, Deuteronomy 31:10-12, 30, Joel 2:16, Revelation 21:3, Revelation 7:9

What does the word "church" mean?

*Our assembled local churches represent  
God's presence with man  
where heaven comes to earth.  
- Jonathan Leeman -*

In 1 Corinthians 11:18, Paul seems to suggest that you are not a church until you come together.

What does Hebrews 10:24-27 warn us against neglecting?

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According to these verses, what benefits do we give and receive when we meet together?

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Why should Christ's return compel us together as a church? What are some ways we encourage one another in the church in light of Christ's return?

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*Jesus means to center our Christianity around regular  
gathering together, seeing one another, learning from one  
another, encouraging and correcting one another, and  
loving one another.  
- Jonathan Leeman -*

## **Centered on God's Word**

The gatherings of the church for a worship service or a Bible Study have both some similarities and differences from other gatherings. Imagine getting tickets to go see a Michael Bublé concert. Why is everyone there?

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When the church gathers, our focus should be to worship God and hear from God. Something supernatural and spiritual happens when we get together.

*Each one of us needs to see and to hear our fellow Saints on a regular basis. Otherwise, it's only colleagues at work, friends at school, or TV characters whose patterns we observe. -Jonathan Leeman*

In what ways have you been shaped by the people in your church? How would their impact have been lessened if you had never spent time with them in person?

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Acts 2:44 reminds us that the church was:

- 1 - For Believers
- 2 - For Gathering
- 3 - For Fellowship

## **CLOSING THOUGHTS**