

Gathered Together

Part 2 of the *I'm In* series

Pastor Rich Warriner

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From the beginning of time, God has gathered His people together.

The evolution of the gathering place...

- Altar
- Tent or tabernacle
- Temple (2 Chron 6:18)
- Synagogue
- Any place large enough (Acts 2:42,46-47)
- Cathedrals & "church" buildings

Church myths

- Church is a building or a meeting.
- The church service as we know it today is a God-ordained "must-have."
- I don't really need to attend weekend services in order to follow Jesus.

Why it's important that we gather together as the church...

- Survival

You won't survive on your own as a Christian because you have...

- A call on your life that's too difficult. (Luke 9:23-24)
- An enemy opposing you who's too cunning & malicious. (1 Peter 5:8)
- A mission to accomplish that's too big. (Matthew 28:18-19)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
Hebrews 10:24-25

- Meaning (Amos 5:23-24; Isaiah 1:17)

God wants us to meet together but what he wants is for our meeting together to count for something bigger.
Hugh Halter

- Belonging (Ephesians 2:19-21)
- Worship (Psalm 100)

Three parts to a great weekend service experience...

- God's part
- Our part
- Your part

A Question from our Core Commitments: *Am I consistently attending corporate worship gatherings?*

Next Steps

Take some time to answer the following questions with your spouse, children, or small group...

- When did you first begin attending church services? Why did you first attend?
- How has your life been impacted by attending weekend services? (*Be as specific or general as you'd like*).
- Read through Hebrews 10:24-25. What does this verse have to say about why we meet?
- Read through the 3 reasons in the sermon notes on why you can't survive on your own, along with the relevant verses. How does this change the importance of the weekend service?
- This past weekend, Rich talked about how during every service there's God's part, our part (leadership's), and your part. Talk about the part you play in making the most of every weekend service for you personally and for others who attend.