

Do I Have To . . .

Do I have to assemble every time a meeting is scheduled?

Question: Would you prefer an "Abraham like faith" where it's you and God in the wilderness we call life? If I say I can't prove there's a passage commanding you to assemble, would that be music to your ears? The pattern is straightforward, but that may not do it for someone else. One may reference [Hebrews 10:24-25](#), but is that a command to assemble or instruction in how to consider one another to stir each other up to love and good works? It doesn't say "the assembly." Assembling. I assemble all the time with different brethren at different times. It always stirs me up to love and good works.

"That's right, which is why I don't assemble! After all - the kingdom of God is within me." True, Jesus did say that the kingdom was in the midst of them, or in you in [Luke 17:21](#). That is absolutely true . . . but you alone are not the kingdom. A kingdom is just that - a kingdom made up of people, not a person. I'm the first to teach that worship shouldn't be considered only a collective action on Sunday. We should worship God all the time. Our lives should be worship to God! However, the obvious picture is one of a body. It's [1 Corinthians 12](#) that I spoke of recently. It's a body with many members who work together.

Don't you get excited after reading passages like [Acts 2](#)? Let's look at the chapter. Peter preaches the gospel about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection (and think about Jesus' life and how He surrounded Himself with disciples. This is the Jesus he preached. What do you see? You see a community turning to God and then to each other. You see them taking care of one another in chapters 2 & 4. Even through persecution, brethren prayed together. You see the spreading of the gospel and the time together in [5:42](#). It's contagious! You see a spiritual family. We carry one another's burdens. We sing to one another, lifting each other's spirits and teaching everyone. Yes, we participate in the Lord's Supper together, hear the word together, and so on. But it's not only Sunday. It's the discussions you have with a small or large group. It's opportunities to grow and be challenged.

So, if we know this, why do we fight against it? Do we view the Lord's day like the Pharisees viewed the Sabbath? Remember what Jesus said? [Mark 2:23-27](#). God, through Moses, told Israel in [Exodus 23:12](#), "Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; that your ox and your donkey may have rest, and the son of your servant woman, and the alien, may be refreshed." I'm not saying that Sunday is the new Sabbath (just to be clear). But does gathering with God's people feel like a moment of rest and refreshment or a curse?

Could there be other reasons? Let's be aware and help each other in the following ways:

- Past hurts
- Social awkwardness
- Incorrect assumptions
- Guilt
- Are we just not interested