

NHBC *youth*

Harmonist

There is nothing better than gathering! We have been meeting in alternative ways over the last couple of months, but there is something special about seeing one another's face and sharing an embrace. Whether it is just a warm look or a fist bump, or you go for the full hand shake or hug, (probably should refrain from the holy kisses at this point) these interactions are important.

The question I have been asking myself since this distancing thing started is, "Why do we gather?" We gather because it is a command. We gather for sanctification. We gather for edification. We gather for discipleship. We gather for encouragement. We gather to worship.

The writer of Hebrews declares ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (Heb10:24, 25) This is a command to gather. It also gives us purpose. He says that we are to gather for the purpose of encouraging one another to love and good works. So we leave refreshed, ready to enter into another week of battle until we persevere to the end.

We are a people who are called to be different. We are set apart and holy. Not because of who we are but whose we are. We should gather with those who are like minded. I read a book from David Platt, "Something Needs to Change." David went with a group to the Himalayas. Christians from villages far away would take days to travel to gather with other Christians. Why? because they needed

the encouragement that comes from being with others who can relate with the hardships of going through spiritual warfare. Most of us do not know the kind of persecution that would leave us yearning for the encouragement of a brother or sister. Can you imagine going through hardship without fellow believers.

There is also a strengthening of our faith that comes from hearing the word preached. "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17) Transformation comes by the renewing of the mind according to Romans 12:2. The Great Commission says that a disciple is baptized and taught. This "teaching" happens in a unique way in the corporate worship setting.

The power of being in relationship and connected to the body cannot be explained. Paul uses the body as an illustration for the gathered church. The body is dysfunctional with a missing or ailing part. Ecclesiastes 4 tells of the importance of working together and the strength that comes from coming together. Jesus didn't send His disciples out alone.

I have heard it said that Christians are hypocrites. We come to church and put on that happy face after fighting all the way to church. I'm not going to say I haven't ever done that but most Sundays I don't have to fake it. I am genuinely happy to be gathered with the church worshipping the King.

The reasons we meet go beyond these few and many of these have been accomplished despite distancing. I encourage you to continue to reach out as you have and think outside of the box on ways to gather and reach out moving forward. My hope is that if you are able to safely come back to meeting with us on Sundays you will.

Graduating Senior Service- May 31

All Other Activities- 〰 (ツ) 〰