



The original Greek word for "church" is "ἐκκλησία" (ekklēsia), which initially referred to a public assembly or gathering of citizens. In the Christian context, it evolved to mean the congregation or assembly of believers in Christ. (Mt 16:18)

I am not a church; we are a church.

A local church is an assembly. If a church never assembles, it is not a church at all.

The meeting isn't just something we do; it's what church is.

The body does not consist of one part.

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:25

Worshipping Jesus together at church is powerful (Mt 18:20)

Paul is writing to churches that regularly gather together (1 Cor. 11:18; 14:23).

Believers were baptized and added to the church.

Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. Acts 2:41

And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:47

Herod persecuted those who belonged to the church.

Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Acts 12:1

Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. Acts 12:5

Going to Church is good for you.

Frequent churchgoers (more than once weekly) experienced a 55% lower all-cause mortality risk than non-churchgoers. (Vanderbilt University)

Older adults active in religion, particularly in service attendance and private practices, tend to have lower blood pressure compared to less religiously active peers, but this doesn't apply to religious media consumption. (The International Journal of Psychiatry in Medicine 1998)

A 14-year study found that regular attendance at religious services is linked to a 50% reduction in later-life divorce rates. (Human Flourishing Program at Harvard University)

Duke University Medical Center research indicates that regular attendees of religious services have healthier immune systems compared to non-attendees.

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, Acts 2:46



Groups > goals.

Bad groups can ruin your good goals.

Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." 1 Corinthians 15:33

Bad company = bad character.

He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed. Proverbs 13:20

Bad company = bad course.

People are stuffed with information, but we have a famine of connection.

Life change happens in relationships.

Iron sharpens iron through proximity, enduring heat and friction in the process.

As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend. Proverbs 27:17

We are not a church that has small groups; we are a small-group church.

Small groups provide:

- Fellowship
- Evangelism
- Learning
- Ministry
- Training

Abraham guided a small group of 318 warriors, training them within his household. (Gen 14:14-16)

Moses organized the people into small administrative groups, some as few as 10, and God anointed a small group to assist him. (Num 11:16-17)

Jesus healed, disciplined, and shared Communion in homes; the Holy Spirit was poured out, and the church began in houses, where people were also saved and baptized (Mt 9:23-24, Mark 9:33-35, Acts 2:2-4, 10:1-48, 2:46, 5:32)."