

To rightly discern the “Body of Christ”... **IS JESUS!**

Jesus tells us that it is He living in us... Therefore, properly understanding the “Body of Christ” is to see Jesus in each other.

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me:” (Galatians 2:20)

To appropriately **BE** the “Body of Christ” is to realize that without Jesus, we are absolutely **powerless** to bring God glory.

“...for without me ye can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

We NEED Christ in us! Jesus must truly become our... **ALL IN ALL!**

To avoid gathering with the “Body of Christ” is one explanation as to why the church is weak, sick, and dying (see 1 Corinthians 11:30 quoted previously).

What If The Following People Had Forsaken The Assembly...

Thomas - may have ended his life in **doubt!**

“And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.” (John 20:28)

Thomas was NOT with the group (John 20:24) when Jesus appeared to them, and he **doubted** that they had seen Jesus. He missed out on **seeing** the resurrected Lord at that time.

Eight days later, Thomas was with the rest, and Jesus graciously showed Himself to Thomas at that time. This event resulted in a

powerful confession of the **deity of Christ... my Lord and my God!**

Peter - could have missed Pentecost.

*“But Peter, standing up with the eleven, **lifted up his voice**, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:”* (Acts 2:14)

*“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were **added unto them about three thousand souls.**”* (Acts 2:41)

If Peter had “forsaken” the assembly of God’s people on the day of Pentecost, he could have missed the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. He would not have been there to deliver the first sermon of the church. Someone else may have led 3,000 souls to Jesus.

Conclusion:

God commands us not to forsake the assembly of the “Body of Christ”. He immediately follows that command with a discussion of willful sin.

Being together as believers is **critical** to spiritual life, health, growth, and maturity.

“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” (Acts 2:42)

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By: Robert Dallmann

*“**Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**”* (Hebrews 10:25)

Don't Forsake The Assembly Of Believers

In this verse God gives a clear command to be in fellowship with believers. How does this apply to us? In modern terms it means **“Get to church!”**

Many Christians today (as in the days of the disciples) do not go to church... they do not gather together with other followers of Jesus. God’s Word says that this is **wrong!**

Rather than avoiding Christian meetings, believers should be together exhorting one another. We should be encouraging our brothers and sisters in Christ. The author of Hebrews tells us that this is **even more urgent** as we *“see the day approaching”*.

While it is understandable that some people (shut ins) cannot attend Christian meetings, most other excuses are simply unacceptable to God. He tells us **“DON'T forsake the assembly of believers!”**

DO NOT FORSAKE

This Becomes Even More Serious

When we look at the verses that follow Hebrews 10:25, we become aware of how critical it is to be together as followers of Jesus.

“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, (27) But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.”
(Hebrews 10:26-27)

Verse 26 speaks of willful sin after receiving the knowledge of the truth, and this truth can certainly apply to the truths of the entire Word of God. However, what truth did the author of Hebrews clearly state in verse 25?

This truth is that we must **not avoid Christian meetings!** Instead we must encourage each other. Hebrews 10:24 tells us to “provoke” one another unto “love and good works”.

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:” (Hebrews 10:24)

In context, Hebrews 10:24-25 tell us not to forsake assemblies of Christians, and verses 26 and 27 speaks of willful sin and the consequences of such. Thus contextually, one who does not “go to church” is **willfully sinning**. This is extremely serious!

Willfully rejecting the Body of Christ, those believers gathered to worship and exalt the Lord, leaves one with “no more sacrifice for

sins”. Rejecting fellow followers of Jesus is to say that one does **not need the Body of Christ!**

If you are not involved in a local expression of the Body of Christ, a local church, please prayerfully consider your **precarious position**. Ponder the ramifications of this passage of Scripture.

The Body Of Christ

“Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.” (1 Corinthians 12:27)

“So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.” (Romans 12:5)

“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”
(Ephesians 4:12)

It should not be a surprise that **not** fellowshiping with other believers (Hebrews 10:25) is in the same context as **ongoing willful sin** (Hebrews 10:26). The **“Body of Christ”** is not just a “Christian phrase), it is powerfully meaningful. Jesus lives in and through us both individually and corporately.

As members of the “Body of Christ”, we belong to one another. We should be united in the Holy Spirit. We should build each other up in Christ.

God has placed leaders into the “Body of Christ” to edify and strengthen His people. Within the “Body of Christ” God’s children grow and mature. **Outside** of the membership in His Body, Christians will stumble, fall, and fail with little hope of maturing in Jesus.

Here is a verse that clearly indicates this:

“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food,” (Hebrews 5:12)

God desires His children to grow and mature into skilled men and women of His Word. The above passage is in the context of exercise in the Scriptures, using solid food rather than continuously drinking milk.

This type of spiritual exercise comes from taking one’s place in the “Body of Christ”.

Rightly Discerning The Lord’s Body

“For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. (30) For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.” (1 Corinthians 11:29-30)

Closely associated with being a part of the “Body of Christ”, is to properly understand the Lord’s “Body”.

“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? (17) For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.” (1 Corinthians 10:16-17)

“I am that bread of life.” (John 6:48)