
The Local Church or the Electronic Church?

Words or places used in the Bible that indicate the importance of assembling together as God's people:

- 1) **Congregation** – Used 330x in the Old Testament to describe Israel. From the word “congregate” which means “to swarm, to assemble”.
- 2) **Gather** – used 8x. For all ages. No other organization on earth attempts this! Examples:
“Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children.” - Deuteronomy 4:10
“Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.” - Deuteronomy 31:12-13
“Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.” - Joel 2:16
- 3) **Tabernacle** – 290x. A portable tent for assembly, sacrifices, offerings.
“And Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. And it came to pass, that every one which sought the LORD went out unto the tabernacle of the congregation, which was without the camp.” - Exodus 33:7
- 4) **House of the LORD (Heb. Jehovah)** – 213x.
- 5) **House of God** – 87x (82 of these refers to “Elohim”, the basis of the doctrine of the Trinity. The other 5x is the Greek “Theos”)
- 6) **My house** – 9x. God dwells in heaven, a human (believer), and a house yet at the same time is omnipresent.
- 7) **Synagogue(s)** – 68x. Gathering places for Judaism and official business. Jesus attended the one in Nazareth for about 28 years, every Sabbath
“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.” - Luke 4:16
- 8) **Church** – 79x. Means – “a called-out assembly”. Almost always refers to a local church and not a universal body.
- 9) **Churches** – 36x. Always refers to a local church and never a universal body of believers.

You would have to discard all these words and references to embrace the electronic church and reject the local church.

Two questions to ponder in closing:

- 1) Do we love God like we should? *“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.”* - Mark 12:30
- 2) Do we love our brothers and sisters in Church? *“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.”* - 1 John 3:14

Concluding thought: God gives all 168 hours in a week. Give some to God and the brethren each week! Attend Church.