

Part Two – What we do when we gather...

Jesus is the reason that we should go to church/youth group. Jesus died to make it possible. What then, do we do when we gather?

¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. **²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching.**
(Hebrews 10:19-25)

What does Hebrews 10:24-25 say about what we do at church/youth group?

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We've already spoken about the centrality of the Bible when we meet. In order for us to church together, it must be over the Scriptures.

This is exactly what Timothy tells us here.

1 Timothy 4:13

“...devote yourselves to public reading of the scriptures, to preaching and teaching.”

Pray to God and thank him that through Jesus dying we have been gathered together. Pray that we will not give up meeting together but do it all the more as we see the day approaching.

If time at end... we'll sing a song about gathering!

Why should
we go to
Church/Youth
Group
?

RAGE
RAGE

the real thing
the real thing
AD2000-2001
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**Let's search the Scriptures¹ to see
what it says about going
to Church/Youth Group...**

Part One – Why go to Church/Youth Group?

There are two reasons why Virtual-Church is fundamentally wrong.

- a) The nature of what church is....
- b) Why Christ died...

a) The nature of what church is...

- Church... what is it? Is it a building? Is it a denomination?
- The word church comes from the Greek word *ekklésia*. It can also be translated 'gathering' or 'assembly'.

Deuteronomy 4:10

"Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when he said to me, "Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may learn to revere me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children.""

In the Old Testament, people assembled (churched) to hear God speak.

Matthew 18:20

"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

We don't need a Bishop or a building... When Christians gather to hear God speak (through the Bible)... they are churching.

Church is when we gather or assemble to hear God's Word. (This includes camp and youth group and bible study groups and Sunday School)

Therefore, on V-church there is no actual gathering.

¹ "Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervon Bible Publishers."

b) Why Christ died...

Titus 2:11-14

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹²It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passion, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good."

What 3 things does v14 tell us about what Christ did?

- i)
- ii)
- iii)

What has this got to do with going to church?

Titus 2:14 tell us that Christ gave himself to purify for himself **a people** that are his very own.

- Jesus didn't just die for individuals, but he died to save a people.
- Jesus died and bled on the cross to make church possible.
- God died to make church.
- If we don't see gathering at Church and/or youth group as important we are underestimating the price that Jesus paid to make it possible for us.

The whole Bible is the unfolding of God building his church. Man sinned and was scattered, God said that he'd gather for himself a people. And he gathered this people for himself by sending Jesus to take the punishment that we deserve so that we can be friends with God and be united to God's family by gathering.

CHRIST DIED TO GATHER A PEOPLE.