



*And let us not neglect our meeting
together, as some people do,*

**ENCOURAGE
ONE ANOTHER**



*especially now that the day of
His return is drawing near.*

Hebrews 10:25 NLT

**Is it okay to use Livestream as a
regular way to worship
on Sundays instead of gathering
together in person?**

We live in a digital age, and the further we “progress” in this technology-reliant world we live in, watching church via Livestream on Sundays is becoming a very regular habit for a majority of us. Especially, when the height of the Covid-19 pandemic began, Livestreaming church services was very much the primary way for Covid-affected believers to continue to participate in Sunday worship. But just how much of this is a good thing, and how much of this is becoming a comfortable habit that blinds our eyes from the biblical importance of gathering together as the Body of Christ?

And let us not neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:25

There is, with anything, a balance that has to be maintained for all of the things that God gives us. Having the technology to continue to hold worship on Sundays during a worldwide pandemic was probably one of the greatest blessings that we believers could ever ask for. In March 2020, my husband and I lived in Indianapolis as the pandemic was starting to rise. The area we lived in had a high infection rate, so there were county-wide curfews as well as “shelter in place” mandates which lasted for sometimes as long as a few months by the local authorities. Beyond the impact of the pandemic, there were protests, rioting, and looting going on that just made things more difficult for people everywhere. Almost all local businesses were shut down, and we were even ordering groceries to be delivered to our home since we weren’t considered “essential workers.” When reflecting on the difficulty of the last few years, it’s easy to understand why virtual church attendance became an integral part of our lives.

The most important thing to consider is the health and safety of others. There is no question about that. However, Hebrews 10:25 is a great reminder of the value of attending church in person. “To meet together is to encourage each other,” as John Piper has said. There is no doubt that spending time with one another in a person-to-person setting is more impactful than watching a gathering of the Body of Christ through a

phone screen. I think that anybody could agree that in order for fellowship to thrive, and for relationships to bloom between the Body, that gathering together is one of the most important ways we can serve one another.

Another thing to consider is what the “Body of Christ” actually means when reflecting on in-person church attendance versus virtual attendance:

“For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.” 1 Corinthians 12:14-19

The beautiful thing about being a tribe of “all nations, peoples, and tongues, (Revelations 7:9)” is the fact that we are all different. 1 Corinthians 12:14 gives us a succinct reminder that our differences are what makes us all special. But in addition to the beauty of those differences, there is also a diversity in spiritual giftings the Lord has given us which gives us a diverse way of ministering to the needs of others. This, in particular, adds emphasis from Hebrews 10:25 when it states “to meet together is to encourage one another.” Some people have the gift to play instruments while others have the gift to teach. Some people have the gift of intercessory prayer while others have the gift of serving in hospitality. We are a diverse body, with one person being the hands, another the feet, and another the eye or the ear because there is a vital need for God’s people to have many ways to strengthen, equip, and minister to one another for God’s glory. You never really know what can happen when you gather with others whether it’s for Sunday worship, Bible study, fellowship events, or even prayer because at that moment only the Holy Spirit knows

how He will choose to use the unique and beautiful gifts He's given you to benefit those around you! And that is why, fellow believers, "to meet together is to encourage each other!"

I want to ask you, dear reader, to consider something. Before making the decision to stay home this Sunday, or before deciding to attend discipleship classes via zoom (if the classes are offered in person), if you are in good health and do not have any other extenuating circumstances as to why you can't attend in-person, are you really giving Jesus *your all*? *Are you pursuing your Savior with "all of your heart (Jeremiah 29:13)?"*