

## The Gathered Church

2020-07-08 by Pastor Sharon Tidd

In recent months, due to COVID-19 restrictions, our church fellowships have not been able to gather. Soon that will change for church fellowships across Canada, but gatherings will look and feel a little different. In contemplating our re-gathering, I thought it might be nice to spend some time this week meditating on some of the Bible's teaching on the church. The church isn't a building; it is the people of God. The building is simply the Church's gathering-place.

As you read through these passages/verses, I encourage you to reflect on the questions below:

(Note: Some will verses/passages will speak more to some questions than to others.)

- What do these verses declare about the Church? Is this a new revelation for me?
- What is the Church? Why does it exist? Does this match my understanding of Church?
- How does God the Father, Son and Spirit view the Church and why is it important for me to recognize this?
- What blessings does God offer His Church? Do I seek these blessings when I gather with the Church?
- Who is included in the Church according to these verses? Am I working to include all whom God's includes?
- What are the purposes of the Church's gatherings? What activities are to be part of those gatherings? Why? What is to be accomplished in the Church as it gathers? Have these purposes and activities been the priority for me when I've gathered with the Church? Why? Why not?
- What are the Church's purposes in the world? Am I seeking to accomplish them?
- How do these internal (gathered church) and external (outreaching church) purposes support each other?
- Does my Church fellowship reflect both sets of purposes well? Why/Why not? If it is falling short in either area, what steps could be taken to strengthen those purposes?

- How do these verses on the Church and its gatherings and outreach affirm my place within the Body of Christ? Am I thankful to be part of God's Church? How am I expressing that gratitude?

**Leviticus 23:3**

**Matthew 18:18-20**

**Psalm 27:4-6**

**Luke 4:14-19**

**Psalm 84:10-11**

**Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35**

**Psalm 100**

**Romans 12:3-8**

**Psalm 122:1**

**1 Corinthians 14:26**

**Ecclesiastes 5:1**

**Ephesians 2:19-22**

**Isaiah 56**

**Ephesians 4:3-16**

**Habakkuk 2:18-20**

**Hebrews 10:25**