

WHY DO WE GATHER?

WHY THE SHORELINE CHURCH MATTERS

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WHY THE SHORELINE CHURCH MATTERS

- Why gathering matters
- Why scattering matters
- Where we are headed matters

OUR MAIN FOCUS TODAY IS TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION: WHY DO WE GATHER?

THREE REASONS WE GATHER:

1. We gather to be EQUIPPED
2. We gather to be ENGAGED in worship
3. We gather to be ENCOURAGED

WE GATHER TO BE EQUIPPED

A. EQUIPPED BY THE TEACHING OF GOD'S WORD

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16 - 17
New Living Translation (NLT)

B. EQUIPPED BY EACH OTHER'S GIFTS

11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13 This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth..

EPHESIANS 4:11 - 14
New Living Translation (NLT)

C. EQUIPPED FOR THE BATTLE

WE GATHER TO BE ENGAGED IN WORSHIP

A. WORSHIP UNITES US

"Dedicated public worship fuels evangelism. When God is at work among His people, unbelievers notice."

- RON ALLEN

"the wonder of worship"

B. WORSHIP AIMED AT GOD

"When we come to a worship service, we should not come as spectators to watch an event. We should come to take part. Rather than seeing the pastor and musicians as performers and considering ourselves as part of the audience, we need to see ourselves as those who are coming as worshippers, with the Lord as the "audience". He is the receiver of our love, our praise, our adoration, our tithes, in short, our worship. The people up front are like player-coaches in sports, or like drama directors and prompters in theater. The leaders attempt to inspire and remind the congregation to offer their worship to God in appropriate and meaningful ways. The question we need to ask at the end of every worship service is not, "did I enjoy it"? Instead the question should be, was God honored by my worship?"

- RON ALLEN

"the wonder of worship"



A LIVING SACRIFICE TO GOD

12 And so, dear brothers and sisters,[a] I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.[b] 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

ROMANS 12:1 - 2

New Living Translation (NLT)

3. WE GATHER TO BE ENCOURAGED

A. ENCOURAGED BECAUSE WE ALL MATTER TO GOD

"Some people think of the church as a pyramid, with the pastor at the top. Others think of the church as a bus driven by the pastor, who takes his passive passengers where they should go. God wants us to see the church as a body, where every part does its share."

-GUZIG

B. ENCOURAGED BY EACH OTHER

C. ENCOURAGED BY MEETING REGULARLY

"And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but ENCOURAGE one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

HEBREWS 10:25

SO NOW WHAT?

- Recognize there are seasons in life
- Pray about your contribution to "the Church"
- Resolve this question, "Am I a believer?"
- Discover your personal gifts (1 cor. 12)
- Take the "1-Month challenge"

Our belief is that gathering together to BE the church is an extremely important matter to God. If it matters to the God, it ought to matter to us! Especially as the day the Lord will return is drawing more and more near each and every day.