

Discovery Group - Gospel Living

(10) *Community Habits*

Introduction: Read Romans 12:1-2

This is the third of three studies in which we discuss spiritual habits that help us to connect with and grow in Jesus. This passage in Romans provides a general theme for all three.

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: Hebrews 10:23-25

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- Why are communal spiritual practices essential for our personal growth in Christ?
- What communal habits are especially useful for you in this season? What are 1 or 2 that you should add?

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

Ephesians 6:1-4 1 Corinthians 11:16

Community Habits

Personal spiritual habits are incredibly important in our transformation into the image of Jesus, as we've seen. God has also given us communal practices that are essential for us to be built up in our faith. In our passage, the writer to the Hebrews exhorts us to "consider how we may spur one another on..." and to "not give up meeting together... but encouraging one another." We have a responsibility to help one another be strong in the faith. What are some practices that we can do together to aid in this process?

Clearly, the four individual practices mentioned in the last study could be done in a corporate setting as well (prayer, obeying the Bible, fasting, good works). In addition to these, a study of 1 Corinthians 11-16, which is largely about gatherings of the local church, reveals some specifically corporate exercises:

- * Singing hymns - **worshipping** God with our voices raised together in song
- * Word of instruction. Reading and receiving **biblical teaching**
- * **Revelation** - something the Spirit of God helps one of us to see is passed on to others. This can also happen through a message in tongues.
- * **Prayer**
- * Celebrating the **Lord's Supper**
- * The exercise of **spiritual gifts** by each member
- * **Giving** / Caring for needs

The key in this passage comes in 14:26: "*Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.*" To be built up does not mean to be made to feel good, but it means to become established, to become strong or mature. That is what we are aiming for, and that is why we do what we do when we gather together. Paul also makes it clear that all these practices must be exercised in an environment of love, which is more important than all.

In the box is a list of 7 communal habits for spiritual growth that we see in the NT. What are some others?

NT Communal Practices Summary

- Worship and praise
- Scripture
- Lord's Supper
- Special revelations
- Spiritual gifts
- Prayer and fasting
- Giving / good works