



Online Christianity vs The Gathered Church

Digital Resources Can Assist the Church,
But They Cannot Replace Covenant Life Together

Technology can distribute teaching, encourage believers, and support ministry. But Scripture presents Christianity as embodied covenant life rooted in gathered worship, fellowship, ordinances, discipleship, accountability, and one another ministry within the local church under Christ.

ONLINE CHRISTIANITY VS GATHERED CHRISTIANITY

ONLINE-ONLY MODEL	VS.	GATHERED CHURCH
Content Consumption		Covenant Participation
Anonymous Audience		Known Community
Algorithm Discipleship		Shepherded Growth
Spectatorship		Shared Ministry
Isolation		Fellowship
Convenience-Centered		Covenant Commitment

Online resources may help you learn.
The church helps you live.

WHAT THE GATHERED CHURCH PROVIDES



KEY SCRIPTURES



Hebrews 10:24-25

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."



Acts 2:42

"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."



1 Corinthians 12:12-27

"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ."



Ephesians 4:15-16

"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measuring every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."



John 13:34-35

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

HOW CHRIST FORMS HIS PEOPLE



1. GATHERING
Christ calls His people together.



2. WORSHIP
We worship God in spirit and truth together.



3. FELLOWSHIP
We build relationships and encourage one another.



4. SHEPHERDING
Leaders care for, correct, and guide the flock.



5. SPIRITUAL GROWTH
Believers grow in Christ through shared life.



6. FAITHFUL WITNESS
The church bears witness to the Gospel together.



Digital tools may assist this process by providing teaching, encouragement, and resources — but they cannot replace embodied covenant life.

QUICK COMPARISON

ASPECT	GATHERED CHURCH
Authority	Christ
Relationships	Embodied and covenantal
Growth	Through shared life
Ministry	Participatory
Worship	Gathered and visible
Witness	Kingdom community

★ KEY TRUTHS

- ✓ Christianity is embodied covenant life.
- ✓ Christ gathers His people together.
- ✓ Online teaching can supplement discipleship.
- ✓ Digital resources cannot replace the church.
- ✓ Believers need shepherding and fellowship.
- ✓ The church visibly represents Christ's Kingdom.

THE BIBLICAL PICTURE



A gathered people, under Christ, living, serving, and growing together in love and truth.
(Ephesians 4:1-16)



THE BOTTOM LINE

Technology can assist Christian growth, but Christ did not establish an online audience. He established a gathered covenant people who worship, serve, grow, and bear witness together under His reign.



TEACHER NOTE

Use this handout to help learners think carefully about the relationship between digital ministry and the gathered church. Emphasize that online resources may strengthen believers, but they cannot replace embodied worship, covenant fellowship, shepherding, and one another ministry.