

13. Church discipline is almost impossible virtually.

When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. 1 Corinthians 5:4–5 (ESV)

14. Developing and affirming church elders is almost impossible virtually.

Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive,... 1 Timothy 3:2–4 (ESV)

Take Aways

- While God is using the virtual church in many good ways, it can not replace the physical gathering of the church. If you are watching at home for convenience, repent and go to church!
- Keep this message in your Bible to share with your friends. Many Christians and pastors are not seeing the long-term problems of virtual church.
- Pour yourself into being a regular part of the physical gathering of your CrossWinds family. We need to gather to become what God wants us to be.

Life Group Questions

1. Review your sermon notes and the above outline. What stood out in this message? What did you learn that you didn't know?
2. As you look back on your experience of watching church online, what was good about it? How is God using virtual churches and online resources to grow Christ's kingdom?
3. Pastor Kurt shared problems that develop when Christians make virtual church a long-term replacement for the physical gathering with God's people. Which of the points was most impactful to you? Do you see other problems with long-term virtual worship?
4. Why are the inconveniences of gathering for church and the challenging relationships we can experience with brothers and sisters in Christ in our church an important part of our spiritual maturity?



Why God Doesn't Want You Staying At Home

July 25, 2021

1. Digital worship is distracted worship.
2. The church is the gathering as Christ's body, not the watching of an event.
 - A. The church is not a building.
 - B. The church is not an event to be watched.
 - C. The church is the gathering of Christians. *Ekklesia* means assembly
3. The church is to be hearing the Word together and singing to Jesus together.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16 (ESV)
4. The church is to gather to encourage one another.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting 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 10:24–25 (ESV)
5. The physical gathering of the church allows us to follow the "one another" commands of the Bible.

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:1–3 (ESV)

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)

6. Joyfully participating in the physical gathering of the church is proof we belong to Christ.

If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. 1 John 4:20 (ESV)

...that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. Ephesians 2:14–16 (ESV)

7. The physical gathering of the church is used by God as an evangelistic tool in the world.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:34–35 (ESV)

8. The physical gathering of the church enables the effective use of our spiritual gifts.

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Romans 12:6–8 (ESV)

9. God dwells more intimately in the gathered church than in individual Christians.

A. Level 1 - God is everywhere.

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? Psalm 139:7 (ESV)

B. Level 2 - God dwells more intimately in Christians.

...even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. John 14:17 (ESV)

C. Level 3 - God dwells even more intimately in the gathered church than he does in individual Christians.

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Matthew 18:20 (ESV)

...For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." 2 Corinthians 6:16 (ESV) (See also 1 Corinthians 3:16 and Ephesians 21-22)

10. God promises to destroy those who destroy the gathering of the church.

Do you not know that you (plural) are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you (plural)? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you (plural) are that temple. 1 Corinthians 3:16–17 (ESV)

11. Digital pastoring is difficult pastoring.

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. Acts 20:28 (ESV)

12. The Baptism and the Lord's Supper were not intended to be virtual and individual.

Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. 1 Corinthians 10:17 (ESV) (See also Mark 14:23 for Jesus' use of one cup.)

But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Acts 8:12 (ESV)