

## The Necessity for Meeting Together in Small Groups

Why do we recommend small groups to meet during the coronavirus restrictions on large group meetings? We do not know how long the meeting restrictions will last. But no matter the circumstances around us we are still in the midst of a spiritual warfare where the testimony of God's glory in and through us is at stake. Therefore we cannot rest from the spiritual disciplines that counter our fleshly tendencies that promote our own self-interests as our idols.

Two major issues we all face: 1.) the problem of the deception of sin which tends to complacency, hardness of heart, and falling away from walking in the truth; and 2.) our tendency to think more about ourselves than others. The writer of Hebrews shows us the necessity of meeting together. The first exhortation is a warning;

Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end, (Hebrews 3:12–14, NASB)

We can be easily deceived and hardened toward God, and therefore we are in the need to encourage and be encouraged to remain firm in the faith. The second reason for meeting together is so that our foundational motivation and our behavior would correspond to the hope that we have in Christ Jesus;

and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling 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, NASB)

We all need encouraging, warning, and motivating relationships with each other in order to remain true to the faith.

**Many of our small groups are meeting via video conference software. If you are interested in being involved in a small group, please call our church office at 910-424-1298.**

Meeting together is essential for each of us to live for the glory of God. We need each other to be encouraged and to encourage in the faith.