



If the Church Exists in Homes, Why Does Anyone Need to Assemble? by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

QUESTION: If the church exists in homes, why does anyone need to assemble?

REPLY: Because Scripture teaches the need for assembling. Our worship is NOT determined by the place, but by the action & attitude. Our word "worship" comes in two parts.

1. When Jesus quoted **Isaiah 29:13** in **Matthew 15:9**, He said, "And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." This word, "worship" is the reverential attitude (sebomai) in our hearts. However, another word translated "worship" (proskunew) refers to direct action(s) expressing that reverence. First used in **Matthew 2:2**, where wise men had to travel to a place where they would "bow down in reverence."
2. Paul wrote to the "church of God which is at Corinth," whether or not they were assembled. He called attention to the need to assemble together when giving instructions about miraculous spiritual gifts: "Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind? But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship (proskunew) God and report that God is truly among you. How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification." (**1 Corinthians 14:23-26**). If spiritual gifts were given only to each house,
 1. what was the value of writing **1 Corinthians** to instruct the whole church?
 2. how would all house churches know when an unbeliever responded in someone else's house?
 3. Why would Paul mention "if the whole church comes together in one place?"
 4. Remember, the Holy Spirit baptized Apostles when "they were all with one accord in one place" (**Acts 2:1**). Meeting in family structures certainly can be done, and in times of persecution or danger, preferred (as in **Acts 12:1-5, 12**). But since the word "church" means "separated for a purpose" (even idolaters have an "assembly" **Acts 19:39**), there there must be a designated time & place when, as Paul wrote to Corinth, "the whole comes together in one place." The Time and Place can be set so as to accommodate "the whole church" coming together, but this is because designated "acts of worship" should be shared together:

1 Corinthians 11:17-34; 14:15-16; 16:1-2. When we "sing" how do we "speak to one another" if we are in separate houses?

3. There is not a dichotomy of "house" OR "common building," but BOTH AND! The early church of Christ "daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ." (**Acts 5:42**) Our coming together in one place is but an extension of house devotion, but a very necessary one at that!

—- jtpII May 17, 2020