



SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Wednesday April 14, 2021

Scripture: Acts 2:42; Heb 10:24-25

TITLE: Don't Settle for Convenience

Loneliness and isolation are two of the common struggles we are facing today. What's fascinating is from the research at the Center for Bible Engagement, these have been heavy hitters, even before the pandemic. The pandemic has simply magnified a very real problem. But I wonder, why is this? What is it about the world we live in that makes us feel so isolated and lonely? Or is it not that we live in that world, but instead, we create it? You see, we, as the people of God, who may be orphaned by our parents, abandoned by a spouse, or rejected by our friends, are never truly alone.

What do I mean by that? Let's consider what the Bible says about living in community:

[“All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals \(including the Lord’s Supper\), and to prayer” \(Acts 2:42, NLT\)](#)

From the very beginning of the Church, they recognized the importance of gathering together as Christians - to learn, to connect, pray, and to remember Jesus' work. One of the blessings of technology is it allows us to connect at a distance. But what can be used for accessibility can be abused for convenience. When that happens, people begin to feel a deficit. The Church does not exist for convenience; it exists for worship, connection, and expansion.

I love the fact that you are here. I love the fact that we get to connect each day online. And if this is all the fellowship you receive, willfully, you may have settled. I'm not talking about health concerns, disabilities, and so on. I'm talking about convenience and settling. The Church was made for more. But it was more than just the gathering together for worship and community. Listen to the writer of Hebrews:

[“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near” \(Heb 10:24-25\).](#)

Again, the writer enforces the seriousness of gathering together as the body of Christ - physically, when able, gathering together as Christians. But why? To encourage each other to live out our faith; to tangibly and physically obey Christ and love others well. The Church is not a building, but a people. The Church exists not for convenience, but for worship, community, and encouragement.

So here's my encouragement for you today: Show that love that God has given you to someone you know. Maybe it's a neighbor who needs some act of kindness. Maybe it's the single parent

who could benefit from a babysitter. Maybe it's your favorite server or barista who could use an extra big tip. Pray for God's direction and then do it.

So go and share the love. And also, share this message with someone who should hear it. We are called to encourage the body of Christ, so share this message. We were made for community, and born-again for this community, so now that we embrace this, let's go win the day!