

Groups Sunday
Groups: A Place For Remembering
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Grace Fellowship Church / Stephen Petrie / September 7, 2025

3 Reasons We Have Groups

#1 You Need To Be Reminded Of The Day, Today.

Acts 1:7 “It is **not for you to know times or seasons** that the Father has fixed by His own authority.”

The church wanted to know **WHEN** Jesus was going to return, but Paul was more concerned that they remembered **THAT** He is going to return.

Our enemy wants to lull us to sleep and keep us intoxicated with the distractions of this world.

1 Thessalonians 5:2 “The Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.”

Community reminds us that the Day of the Lord is meant to impact **Today**.

Matthew 24:36, 42-44 “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only...⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Hebrews 10:24-25 “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,²⁵ **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**.”

1 Thessalonians 5:3 “While people are saying ‘there is peace and security’ then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman and they will not escape.”

Don't presume upon the kindness of God.

Revelation 3:3 (Jesus says) “Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, **I will come like a thief**, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.”

God gave us one another to remind each other that **we do not wage war against flesh** and blood, but that there is something of far more significance that we are a part of.

Christian community is meant to serve as a regular ice bath that **shakes us** and **wakes us**.

#2 You Need To Be Reminded Of The Indicatives That Lead To Your Imperatives.

God's word grounds the **commands** He gives us in the **indicatives** about us.

1 Thessalonians 5:4-10 “But **you are not in darkness**, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.⁵ For **you are all children of light**, children of the day. **We are not of the night** or of the darkness.⁶ So *then* let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.⁷ For those

who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸ *But since we belong to the day*, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For **God has not destined us for wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so *that* whether we are awake or asleep we might live with Him.”

We need the family of God at close range so that they can remind us of **who we are**.

The niceties and encouragements that are founded in this world are founded on wishful thinking and in true pain and chaos will not be able to sustain you.

#3 You Need To Be Reminded Over And Over And Others Need The Reminders From You.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 “Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”

Christian community, encouragement, and the building up of the church **isn't a one and done ordeal**.

Each of us, not only some of us, have been given the responsibility to build up the church.

It should be normative but it's not natural.

1 Peter 2:5 “You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a royal priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

Encouragement and building up is most effective when rooted in **God's word**.

Acts 20:32 “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up.”

Conclusion:

Acts 1:6-8 “So when they had come together, they asked Him, ‘Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?’ ⁷ He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be My witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.’”

1 Peter 2:9 “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may **proclaim the excellencies of Him** who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

Though most will experience the Day of the Lord like a thief, the Church will experience it as a **wedding feast**.

Revelation 19:7 “Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory, for **the marriage** of the Lamb has come, and His Bride has made herself ready.”

Encourage one another and Build one another up. Just as you are doing.