

“If we expect our churches to feel like family without any effort, we have misunderstood the gospel. ... It took a fight to bring the family of God together, and it may take a struggle to keep it intact. After all, the church is a society of saved sinners.”

- Chad Ashby

Since we have
(indicative)

confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by
the blood of Jesus

a great priest over the house of God

let us
(imperative)

draw near (faith)

- purified
- washed

hold fast (hope)

consider one another (love)

- not neglecting to meet together
- but encouraging one another

There are inadequate
(sometimes selfish)
reasons over which we
should never withdraw
from a church.

“Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?” - Hebrews 2:1-3a, ESV

“See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called ‘Today,’ so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”

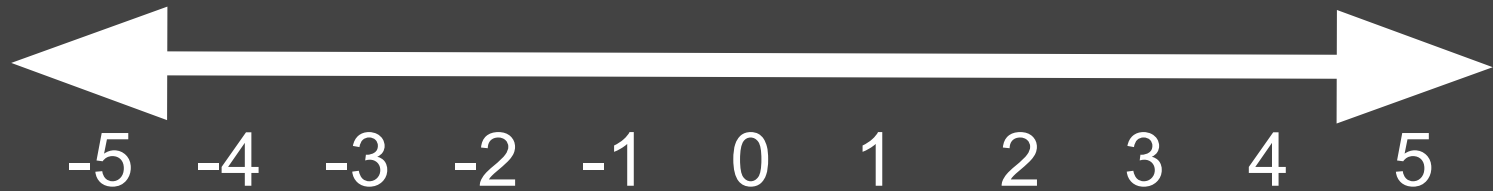
- Hebrews 3:12-13, NIV

“Jesus did not design the church to be a place where our dreams come true. Actually, it’s where many of our dreams are disappointed and die. And this is more of a grace to us than we likely realize, because our dreams are often much more selfish than we discern...

Jesus designed the church to be a place where love comes true, where we lay our preferences aside out of deference to others. It is meant to be a living laboratory of love.” - Jon Bloom

GRUMBLING AND
DISSATISFIED ABOUT
WHAT'S LACKING IN
YOUR CHURCH

GRATEFUL AND
AFFIRMING OF
EVIDENCES OF
GRACE IN YOUR
CHURCH



There are legitimate reasons to withdraw from *a church*—but we must never withdraw from *the church* of Jesus Christ.

We will, when we move from this place, unite as soon as possible with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

- NCBC Church Covenant

The Body of Christ is not your enemy—
your enemy is sin and Satan.

People fail.

Satan ravages.

But Jesus never fails.

Jesus rescues.

Don't let the sin that still tarnishes God's church
keep you from the abundant grace that beautifies
God's church.