

Week 6: Spirit in Community

Home group notes (Van Johnson)

Wherever 2 or more are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them / Mt. 18.20
Jesus taught us the importance of being together, and the Spirit works to bring us together

Ancient culture in which NT written put an emphasis on the group; our culture emphasizes the individual.

To read NT well, be mindful of the primacy of Christian community—the natural habitat of the Spirit

What is the significance of the Spirit among us?

1. We are (only) Christian together (no ‘unconnected’ Christians)

Spirit makes us into the body of Christ by joining us to one another

1Cor 12.13 our common experience **is** reception of the Spirit at salvation

2. We experience God’s presence together

There is a dynamic when we gather, as the Spirit enables us to experience presence of God

3. We minister together

The gifts of the Spirit only function when we are with others

4. We learn together

NT was written to be heard by Christians gathered together; when we are gathered, we often hear the Scripture differently than when alone