

Sermon Notes

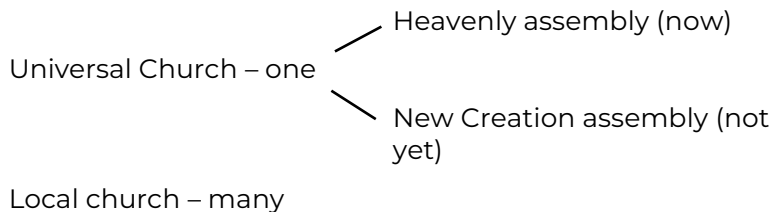
What's so special about Sundays?

Exodus 19:1-8a & 2 Timothy 3:14-4:8

Introduction: Exciting stuff!

1. Gathering together as a church on Sundays

- (i) The NT word translated in English as 'church' (*ekklesia*) means assembly or gathering.
- (ii) Rooted in God's promises to Israel, the Church, inaugurated at Pentecost by the giving of the Holy Spirit, is the new covenant people of God in Jesus Christ.
- (iii) The NT uses the word 'church' in two senses: universal and local



- (iv) To become a Christian is to become a member of the universal church. Christians are also called to be part of a local church.
- (v) Fundamental to being part of a local church is gathering or meeting together regularly. We do that through the week, but on Sundays we gather together as a whole church.

- (vi) 'The purpose of gathering together [on Sundays] is to show what we are, learn what we are, become what we are, rejoice and give praise to God for what we are, and through it all witness to Jesus Christ.' (*Jonathan Leeman*)
- (vii) To that end, we gather together to listen to God speaking, to respond by speaking to God in prayer, to sing to one another and to God, to build up one another by speaking the truth in love and to participate in baptisms and the Lord's Supper.

2. Gathering together as a church on Sundays to listen to God speaking

- (i) God has always gathered His people to speak to them, e.g.

Exodus 19:1-8a

Nehemiah 8

Acts 2

2 Timothy 3:14-4:8

- (ii) Preaching is central to our Sunday gatherings because:

- Jesus leads the church
- Jesus leads the church through His Word, the Bible
- Preaching the Word is the appointed means of Jesus speaking to the whole church
- Preaching is dialogue

(iii) Doubts about preaching

Doubts expressed in the culture

Doubts expressed in the church

Responding humbly

3. Belonging and being here matters