

...did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

Here it is very important to distinguish between a personal and positional and equality with God.

Jesus – His Person - Jesus always was, is and will be Equal with God.

Jesus – His Position – From all of eternity Jesus was positionally equal with the Father, enjoying all the privileges and glories in Heaven. Jesus was willing to step away from His positional equality with God the Father and all the comforts and joys and privileges of Heaven in order to redeem humanity. Jesus did not consider it robbery, that this positional equality with God had to be taken away, in order for Jesus to redeem mankind.

Phil. 2:7 but made Himself of no reputation,...

reputation - Greek Wd - **κενόω** - to empty, make empty. In other words Jesus emptied Himself. He empties Himself of those positional privileges of God.

therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

Wd serious - σωφρονέω - to be of sound mind, be in right mind or sober minded. Meaning keep your mind steady and clear.

Wd watchful - νήφω - to be calm and collected in spirit; to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect - In other words don't have your mind clouded with the things of the world, instead be watchful over the things of God. Have your mind focused on the things of God in your prayer life.

fervent - **έκτενής** – to stretch out. To go the extra mile, to go to great lengths.

love - **ἀγάπη** - affection, good will, love, benevolence,

6 reasons we go to church

1) When you become a Christian, you are called into a relationship with God

1Cor. 1:9 God *is* faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

But 1 John 1:3 makes it clear that we enter a fellowship that goes two ways: with God and with other Christians.

1John 1:1 ¶ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— (Jesus)

1John 1:2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

1John 1:3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

2) We are told to fellowship on a regular basis.

Heb. 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

Heb. 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

3) Use of Spiritual gifts—1 Corinthians 12 makes it clear that God has given spiritual gifts to every Christian to be used in the local body.

1 Peter 4:10 commands us to use spiritual gifts to help each other.

1Pet. 4:10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1Cor. 12:20 ¶ But now indeed *there are* many members, yet one body.

1Cor. 12:21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”

Thus no one can say i have no need of the church, no need to assemble with the brethren.

4) The New Testament is full of “one another” commands.

Comfort 1Th. 4:18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Edify -1Th. 5:11 ¶ Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Confess - James 5:16 Confess *your* trespasses to one another,

Pray - and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

5) ACCOUNTABILITY—God designed the church as a place where spiritual leaders could watch out for our welfare, as a shepherd guards the sheep.

1Pet. 5:1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

1Pet. 5:2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

1Pet. 5:3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;

1Pet. 5:4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Heb. 13:17 ¶ Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

6) It Is What Jesus Did

Luke 4:16 ¶ So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.

Jesus went to the synagogue which was His custom meaning this is what Jesus did regularly. Jesus met with God's people on a regular basis and so should we.