

Theme: Those who have been reconciled to God by Christ are called to a life of community to help them hold unswervingly to the faith in this fallen world.

I. Intro - A Culture of Individualism

- A. Problem of the one and the many; individual & society
- B. America definitely tends to stress the individual
- C. Have always done this; really in hyper-drive now
- D. Church does this - individual quiet time; walk
- E. I come to the Garden Alone - really??
- F. All In - All In this together - disciple & the church

II. The Gift: Our Great Salvation In Christ

- A. A reminder of the Gospel
Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by **the blood of Jesus**,²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, **his body**,²¹ and since we have **a great priest over the house of God**... Hebrews 10:19–21
 - 1. Jesus, Body and Blood, His Priesthood for us
 - 2. These are all different aspects of the Gospel
 - 3. The writer is remind us of the Gospel of grace
- B. The results of **Jesus' work - access to God**
Therefore, brothers, since **we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place** by **the blood of Jesus**,²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us **through the curtain**, that is, **his body**,²¹ and since we have **a great priest over the house of God**... Hebrews 10:19–21
 - 1. By **Jesus' atoning work** **we have access to God**

- 2. We are no longer restricted to outer court
 - 3. We can now come through the curtain, into Holy of Holies, near to God
 - 4. We can do this with confidence/boldness
 - 5. All because of Jesus' blood, body, & priesthood
- C. The importance of the Gospel for discipleship
- 1. The Gospel is the foundation of our discipleship
 - a. This access to God is found only through the Gospel
 - b. Even our daily discipleship begins with the Gospel
 - c. We daily remind ourselves that Christ is our only access to God - not principles, our efforts, our works
 - 2. We never move on from the Gospel!!
 - 3. Thanks be to God for Jesus & His Gospel!

III. The Call: Three Implications of the Gospel

- A. The structure of the Greek of Hebrews 10:19-25
Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ **by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,**²¹ **and since we have a great priest over the house of God,**²² **let us draw near**²³ **Let us hold unswervingly**²⁴ **And let us consider**²⁵ **Let us not give up meeting together,** as some are in the habit of doing, but **let us encourage** one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Heb. 10:19–25
 - 1. This is actually one long sentence in Greek
 - 2. Sentence begins with the **assertion of the Gospel**

3. The writer then gives **three main verbs**
4. These are **three calls arising from the Gospel**
 - a. Let us draw near, hold unswervingly, consider
 - b. Note 'let us' both times in v25 are a participle, not main verb - it explains part of how we 'consider'
5. These three verbs structure these verses

B. The three implications of the Gospel

1. Let us draw near - to God

let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Hebrews 10:22

 - a. This is the first great privilege of the Gospel
 - b. We now have free access to draw near to God
 - c. This is the heart & power of discipleship
 1. An unbeliever can not be a disciple!
 2. The heart of discipleship is drawing near to God, sitting at Jesus' feet to listen
 3. The power needed to be 'all in' is found in walking close to God - not from other people
 4. No one can walk with God for you!
 - d. And this is possible because we are cleansed & have full assurance
2. Let us hold unswervingly - to the hope we profess

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23

 - a. The readers were being pulled to abandon the faith

- b. They are encouraged - don't swerve off course
 - c. The same fight faces us today - don't swerve off
 - d. We must hold fast the faith once for all delivered
3. Let us consider - one another

And **let us consider** how we may spur **one another** on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24–25

 - a. Let us consider one another
 1. Not really consider how to spur on - consider other person - to know how to spur them on to love & good deeds
 2. This will require that we actually know the other person well enough to do this
 3. This is the local church application of loving your neighbor as you love yourself
 4. We are to want our brothers and sisters to experience the great joy God has for them
 5. Impossible to do this with passing acquaintances
 - b. To spur on to love and good deeds

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:24

 1. We spur on to love and good deeds - fruit of discipleship
 2. We do this because we desire their joy - and it is found in love and good deeds - not self-centered living

3. Spur on/provoke - 1 other NT use - Acts 15:39
Barnabas & Paul sharp dispute - strong emotion
4. We are challenging each other to be 'all in'

C. The call to a life of community

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:25

1. To build community we must meet together

- a. It is impossible to spur one another on if we do not meet together
- b. This is primarily speaking of the gathering of the church for worship
 1. Ἐπισυναγωγή - gather together - synagogue
 2. He will urge them to submit to leaders of local assembly soon (Hebrews 13:7,17)
- c. It is the heart of discipleship to gather weekly with the church for worship and encouragement, but many forsake this today.
- d. Some early believers forsook the gathering because of persecution. Today, we do this because of convenience, not persecution.
- e. God does not need us to gather to worship - all creation worships Him. We need to gather for worship, or our discipleship will wither.

2. To build community we must encourage one another

- a. We gather for a vertical reason - to worship God
- b. We also gather for a horizontal reason - to encourage one another

- c. We need encouragement to resist sin & stay 'all in'
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 3:13

1. Without regularly gathering for worship, we will lack the strength to resist the sin our culture pushes upon us
2. Notice we need daily encouragement - weekly worship must lead to close community that touches us daily

- d. We need this more and more - not less and less

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:25

1. The closer we get to the return of Jesus the more we need this
2. We will never outgrow our need for gathering with believers for worship and encouragement

D. Why we need weekly worship & the community of the church

1. God commands it as an essential part of glorifying Him
2. I need the encouragement of other believers
3. Other believers need me to encourage them
4. God's mission requires a vibrant healthy church - we must be 'all in' - together!

IV. All In To Apply the Word

A. Am I a vital part of a local church?

1. We are called to be “ALL in” - discipleship is communal
2. Is my thinking about this biblical - or worldly?

American “Dream”	Kingdom Reality
God & His Gospel are optional extras	God & His Gospel are the spring from which real life flows
Look out for #1	Consider others & their needs
Be “tolerant” - let everyone do what they want	Spur each other on to resist sin, and to love and good deeds
Worship is optional - gather for worship when it fits in your schedule	Worship is essential - my schedule revolves around gathering for worship
The community of the local church is optional	It is impossible to be a disciple apart from being part of the Christian community of a local church

3. Which column characterizes the way I think?
4. Which column characterizes the way I live?
5. Our culture encourages superficial relationships - but we need community

B. The root: the Gospel

1. We began and end with the Gospel

2. It provides the context and the power to do this
3. Communion makes the truth of the Gospel visible
4. Communion points to the Gospel - & the church
5. Communion - with God and one another

The Church As Community

Hebrews 10:19-25
 October 25, 2015
 Communion
 Romans 15:5-6

Teaching keywords: community; discipleship; fellowship; church; salvation & deliverance

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5–6

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