

Biblical Community | Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

The Purpose of Community

- "Forty million Americans have stopped attending church in the past 25 years. That's something like 12 percent of the population, and it represents the largest concentrated change in church attendance in American history...Americans who were once a part of churches but have since left, the process of leaving was gradual, and in many cases they didn't realize it was even happening until it already had." (Jake Meador)
- a. Hold fast the confession
- b. Without wavering
 - i. "And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh." (Jude 1:22-23)
 - ii. "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken." (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)
- c. He is faithful

The Practice of Community

- a. Exhortation
- b. Encouragement
 - i. "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits." (Proverbs 18:21)
 - ii. "The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me." (John 17:22-23)
 - iii. "Spiritual formation occurs primarily in the context of community...long term interpersonal relationships are the crucible of genuine progress in the Christian life...people who stay, grow. People who leave, do not grow. It is a simple but profound biblical reality that we both grow and thrive together or we do not grow much at all." (Joseph Hellerman)
 - iv. "Full transformation in a person takes another person, and that's the possibility of what God will do in and through you in the lives of His people in community." (Jared Musgrove)

The Priority of Community

- a. The habit of gathering
- b. The day draws near

Benediction | Acts 2:42

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.