

The Church As Gospel Community

Hebrews 10:19-25

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I. Introduction

The picture of the Church as Gospel Community, depicted in our passage, offends and refutes all individualism. Christianity is not a Gospel-and-me thing. It's a Gospel-and-*us* thing.

II. Text: Hebrews 10:19-25

19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 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.

III. Gospel Foundation, vv. 19-21

Under the Mosaic administration of the covenant, God's people were excluded from the throne room. They could not come into the innermost chamber of God's temple, where God Himself dwelt. They could not come into His _____. Why? Because they were not holy. Only the High Priest could enter into the Holy of holies, and this was only once a year, on the Day of Atonement; he entered bearing sacrifices, not just for the people, but also for himself. But Christ Jesus changed this by tearing down that veil in His own flesh. By offering Himself, Jesus Christ has sanctified us; He has made us _____. He has consecrated a people who can now come into the presence of God with boldness.

IV. Vertical Responsibilities, vv. 22-23

The first two *cohortatives* (vv. 22-23) direct us in our communal responsibilities toward _____. The sum of it is that we are to draw near to God. We've been welcomed into the presence of our God, and so we must come to Him.

1. . . . with _____ hearts, full of faith (v. 22a). When we come together God's people, drawing near to Him, we can only do so by faith (Heb. 11:6).
2. . . . with a _____ conscience (v. 22b). Our hearts are to be sprinkled clean from an evil conscience that condemns us by confessing and repenting of our sin (Psa. 66:18; 32:3; Acts 5; Heb. 10:31).
3. . . . with a _____ body (v. 22c). We are to come baptized, and the rite and the reality are joined together by God. Your God has purchased your body as much as your heart or your mind, and so they too are to be washed with pure water, made obedient to Christ (1 Cor. 6:19-20).
4. . . . while holding fast the confession of _____ (v. 23). We are to draw near to the Lord, continually and steadfastly, with our eyes fixed upon the goal of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Heb. 13:14).

V. **Horizontal Responsibilities, vv. 24-25**

The Apostle calls us to *consider one another*, to pay attention to, to observe. We are, positively, to _____ one another in how to be fruitful in the Lord. This is the work of _____. And, negatively, we are to _____ one another against temptation and sin (see also Heb. 3:13).

A. The Logistics of Life Together

This kind of community requires of us forethought and _____ in order to practically make time and room for it in our busy lives. Most of our lives can be cut up into about five slices. Each of these slices will differ in size according to where you're at in life, which means you'll have to reevaluate at each of those stages. These five areas are the following:

1. Church
2. Neighborhood
3. School
4. Work
5. Hobbies/extracurriculars

Depending on how you organize these five things, your life will either be spread out, or it will be thick with overlap.

B. Habits for Fruitful Life Together

The logistical part gets us onto the field, but the real striving begins once we actually play the game—once we actually have to carry out these responsibilities toward one another.

In order to make this thick community _____, we need to cultivate five habits.

- A. Worship God.** Commit individually and as a family to _____ to God, having a true heart, a clean conscience, a pure body, holding fast to the confession of our hope.
- B. Intentionality.** Don't _____ your time together. When you hang out with your brother or sister, *consider them*—how can you encourage them? How might they need to be exhorted?
- C. Humility.** The humble man knows he's a work in progress—that he is maturing and growing, that he's not omniscient—and so he welcomes others to weigh in on how he's doing.
- D. Brotherly affection.** We're not built up by simply speaking the truth. It is the truth spoken in _____, in love of Christ and in love for them.
- E. Patience.** Hebrews describes the Christian life as a long obedience, a long pilgrimage to a heavenly country, to the inheritance promised us. We are like Israel journeying out of Egypt to the promised land, we are going together—with families, with small kids, with men and women, with weak and strong, able and lame, young and old. This requires of us patience.

VI. **Conclusion**