

Hebrews 10:24 8.27.17 #cccsermons

Together: Let Us... Hebrews 10:22-25 Series:

God knows if we are left to ourselves and not challenged, then we might never **GROW** in our faith. So God designed something called the church, a place where others come together and challenge each other to live for Christ.

Hebrews 10:24 (NIV) ²⁴ *And let us consider...*

- How do we stay strong in our faith?
- **#1 THINK about others more than ourselves.**
- It's no coincidence that the writer tells us in order to stay strong in our faith, we need to consider others because we usually spend majority of our days and our life thinking only about ourselves.
- Sadly, we often think about what WE as an INDIVIDUAL can do, instead of thinking what it is that WE as the **BODY**, TOGETHER can do.
- Together we can do more that we can accomplish individually.
- God's desire is that His people live together in unity, but this doesn't just happen without work.

According to Philippians, Paul agrees the first step to unity in the church is to stop thinking about ourselves.

Philippians 2:1-4 (NIV) *Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

- Much of what we do is not done out of love for others, but out of our own desire for "advancement" or "promotion", this is why God wants us to change the way we see our world. WE are so much better if we think about others instead of ourselves.

Hebrews 10:24 (NIV) ²⁴ *And let us consider how we may spur one another*

How do we stay strong in our faith?

#2 CHALLENGE others.

- Most of the time when you challenge others to stay strong in the faith, you will be held accountable also.
- The word for spur is the Greek word *paroxysmos* (parox suess moss) which generally means *to irritate or incite* or to **PROVOKE into ACTION**.
- If we are not careful, if we don't have the right perspective, we will become **CRITICS** instead of being Christ-like.
- I'm glad that God gave us all opinions, but just because you have one, doesn't mean that it is helpful. But, the beauty of the Gospel is that our opinion can make a difference if we have the right attitude.

- Let's be honest, all of us need some spurring and provoking at times.
- When we think of people who have made the biggest difference in our lives – parents, teachers, coaches, mentors, and friends – they all have one thing in common – they pushed us further than we **WANTED** to go.
- We need to inspire people to live better lives and be better people.

Three different forms of encouragement that I think can SPUR others into action:

- **#1 Sometimes encouragement comes in the form of being NICE.** (see Proverbs 12:25)
- The church should be the nicest place on earth where everyone who walks through that door should get a handshake or a hug and feel welcomed and at home in our church. My goal is that CCC is a **SAFE HAVEN** for people, a place to come in their struggles and challenges where you and I encourage them through kindness and the Word.
- **#2 Sometimes encouragement comes in the form of the honest TRUTH.**
- Deeper and more meaningful relationships require something more than just niceness. Even though criticism was meant to bring about improvement, sometimes it drives a wedge of hurt feelings and will hinder the growth of the church. Now, in here lies the challenge: Trying to figure out how to speak the truth in love. (see **Ephesians 4:15**)
- When you see a brother or sister doing something they should not do, don't judge them, don't criticize them, don't talk about them to someone else, but come alongside them and encourage them to do right and show their love for God. (see **Galatians 6:1-2** and **Ephesians 4:29**)
- If something needs to be said, say it in love and continue to **PRAY** for them no matter what the response!
- **#3 Finally, sometimes encouragement comes by EXAMPLE.**
- If you are not PRESENT consistently, you **MINIMIZE** your impact on others.

Hebrews 10:24 (NIV) ²⁴ *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,*

How do we stay strong in our faith?

#3 DO good for others.

- Here the writer challenges us to figure out how to motivate each other action.
- We need to show the way and lead by doing good deeds in every aspect of our lives, even if we see no return.
- God wants you to be the expression of Himself to this world.

When we meet together, we challenge each other to take what we learned this week and share it with others.

- Even though it can get messy, God wants us to do life together! We are called to be TOGETHER and together only happens when we are **INTENTIONAL**.