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**MEETING TOGETHER**

**Where the Individual Believer Experiences the Riches of Christian Community**

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

The downside of economic and technological progress is that it tends to make us rich in possessions, but poor in relationships. We’re becoming increasingly efficient at leading meaningless lives. Just as there is community between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we’re created (as creatures made in the image of God) with a craving for community,. And much of the God-created fulfillment for this craving is experienced in the spiritual disciplines of life together in a local church. These corporate spiritual disciplines are encapsulated in the familiar commands of Hebrews 10:24-25, including the command about “not forsaking our own assembling together.”

1. **MEETING TOGETHER IN WAYS WHEREBY WE EXPERIENCE THE RICHES OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IS BASED UPON THE RICHES OF WHAT WE SHARE IN JESUS**

 The initial recipients of this letter were Jewish Christians thinking of returning to Judaism because of the persecution they were experiencing as Christians. In 9:23-10:10 they’re reminded that Jesus is a better sacrifice than the Jewish sacrifices, and in 10:11-18 that Jesus is a better priest. Based on this are the commands of 10:22-24.

1. **MEETING TOGETHER IN WAYS WHEREBY WE EXPERIENCE THE RICHES OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY STIMULATES US TO LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS**

The command in verse 24 is, “let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds.” Note that the context of this mutual motivation to love and good deeds takes place in the context of “assembling together” (v. 25). We should “consider” how to conduct our meetings with other Christians so that *koinonia* occurs.

1. **MEETING TOGETHER IN WAYS WHEREBY WE EXPERIENCE THE RICHES OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IS A SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE THAT CAN EASILY BECOME HABITUALLY NEGLECTED**

Verse 25 warns against “not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some.” Virtually every social trend in our culture is making it harder for us to spend time together talking about the things of God.

1. **MEETING TOGETHER IN WAYS WHEREBY WE EXPERIENCE THE RICHES OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ENCOURAGES US, SOMETHING WE NEED ALL THE MORE THE CLOSER WE GET TO SEEING THE LORD**

 Verse 25 tells us of our need to be “encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” Regular conversation about the things of God is one of the best encouragements for us to persevere in them.

# MORE APPLICATION

1. ***Church Leaders (pastors, deacons, teachers, small group leaders):***
	1. ***Good leadership does not view koinonia as supplemental to the health of the church, but essential.***
	2. ***Good leadership does not presuppose koinonia, it cultivates it.***
	3. ***Good leadership does not overlook the teaching potential of koinonia, it maximizes it.***
2. ***Church members:***
	1. ***Realize that your spiritual health is dependent upon koinonia and that your world is making it increasingly difficult to experience.***
	2. ***Reform the existing church structures you are a part of in order to cultivate koinonia.***
	3. ***Recognize your responsibility to initiate koinonia both inside and outside the official church structures and gatherings.***
3. ***All others:***
	1. ***There is no koinonia with Christians without koinonia with Christ.***
	2. ***Those who truly have koinonia with Christ will crave koinonia with Christ’s people.***
	3. ***The local church, despite its faults, is the community created by Christ as the primary place where we should seek koinonia with Christ’s people.***