

Holding Fast Together

Significance of Christian Community in the Complete Sacrifice of Christ

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1 The old system under the law of Moses was only a shadow, a dim preview of the good things to come, not the good things themselves. The sacrifices under that system were repeated again and again, year after year, but they were never able to provide perfect cleansing for those who came to worship. 2 If they could have provided perfect cleansing, the sacrifices would have stopped, for the worshipers would have been purified once for all time, and their feelings of guilt would have disappeared. 3 But instead, those sacrifices actually reminded them of their sins year after year. 4 For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. 5 That is why, when Christ came into the world, he said to God, "You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings. But you have given me a body to offer. 6 You were not pleased with burnt offerings or other offerings for sin. 7 Then I said, 'Look, I have come to do your will, O God—as is written about me in the Scriptures.'" 8 First, Christ said, "You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings or burnt offerings or other offerings for sin, nor were you pleased with them" (though they are required by the law of Moses). 9 Then he said, "Look, I have come to do your will." He cancels the first covenant in order to put the second into effect. 10 For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time. 11 Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can

never take away sins. 12 But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand. 13 There he waits until his enemies are humbled and made a footstool under his feet. 14 For by that one offering he forever made perfect those who are being made holy. 15 And the Holy Spirit also testifies that this is so. For he says, 16 "This is the new covenant I will make with my people on that day, says the LORD: I will put my laws in their hearts and I will write them on their minds." 17 Then he says, "I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds." 18 And when sins have been forgiven, there is no need to offer any more sacrifices. A Call to Persevere 19 And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. 20 By his death,[g] Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. 21 And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, 22 let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. 24 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. 26 Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins. 27 There is only the terrible expectation of God's judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies. 28 For anyone who refused to obey the law of Moses was put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Just think how much worse the punishment will be for those who have trampled on the Son of God, and have treated the blood of the covenant, which made us holy, as

if it were common and unholy, and have insulted and disdained the Holy Spirit who brings God's mercy to us. 30 For we know the one who said, "I will take revenge. I will pay them back." He also said, "The LORD will judge his own people." 31 It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God. 32 Think back on those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering. 33 Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things. 34 You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail, and when all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever. 35 So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! 36 Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised. 37 "For in just a little while, the Coming One will come and not delay. 38 And my righteous ones will live by faith. But I will take no pleasure in anyone who turns away." 39 But we are not like those who turn away from God to their own destruction. We are the faithful ones, whose souls will be saved.

—Hebrews 10

BIG IDEA

- Because Christ's once-for-all sacrifice gives us full access to God's presence in spiritual family. Together we are called to draw near, hold fast, and lovingly strengthen one another in faith as we await His coming.

FLOW OF HEBREWS 10

Christ has done what sacrifice could never do ↓ We have been made holy through His once-for-all offering

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Therefore, we can confidently enter God's presence in unity

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Therefore, let us draw near, hold fast, and consider one another ↓ Do not turn away from Christ or drift from Him and His people

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Remember how you once endured together

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Do not shrink back—live by faith until the promised reward comes

1. CHRIST HAS DONE ENOUGH

Hebrews 10:1-18

“We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

—Hebrews 10:10

EXPOSITIONAL NOTES

- The repeated sacrifices of the old covenant testified to their own incompleteness. They could not finally accomplish what humanity needed.
- Jesus, however, offered: “for all time a single sacrifice for sins” (10:12).
- Then: “he sat down at the right hand of God.”
- The priests stood because their work was never finished; Jesus sat because His sacrifice is sufficient.

“By a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.”

—Hebrews 10:14

- Christ’s work is complete, while our sanctification continues. We do not gather with God’s people to earn access to God’s presence; we gather because Christ has already welcomed us into it.
- This is good news for weary and imperfect people. Our standing with God does not depend on how well we performed this week. It rests on the finished work of Jesus.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- How are you holding onto your confession of faith in the all-sufficient sacrifice of Christ for your right standing in God's presence with God's people?

GO DEEPER

- Where are you still tempted to establish your worth before God through performance?
- What would change if you genuinely rested in Christ's finished work?

2.BECAUSE CHRIST HAS DONE ENOUGH — LET US

Hebrews 10:19-25

"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus..."

—Hebrews 10:19

- Because Christ has given us confidence to enter, a new and living way, and a great priest over God's house: LET US draw near. LET US hold fast. LET US consider one another.
- The finished work of Christ brings us not only into God's presence but also among God's people.

LET US DRAW NEAR (Hebrews 10:22)

"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith."

- Christ has opened God's presence, so we can come without pretending, performing, or hiding. The gospel gives us confidence without arrogance and authenticity without shame.
- We can come honestly, even when our faith feels fragile, because our access is grounded in Christ rather than in our emotional strength.

LET US HOLD FAST (Hebrews 10:23)

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."

- We hold fast not because we are always strong, but because God is faithful. When our courage falters, His faithfulness remains steady. One of His gracious means of preserving our faith is His people.

LET US CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER

Hebrews 10:24–25 “Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works...”

- To “consider” one another means to pay intentional attention: to know people, notice their needs, and strengthen their faith. Christian gathering is more than occupying the same room; it involves considering, stirring up, encouraging, and gathering: “all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

- Gathering is part of God’s provision for helping His people endure until Christ comes. It is not a test we must pass to prove our faithfulness, but a gift through which God often renews and strengthens us.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- How might you be neglecting the gathering—not only through inconsistent attendance, but also by holding back from sincere and meaningful participation?

GO DEEPER

- Can you be in the room while still withholding yourself from Christian community?

- Who actually knows what is happening in your heart right now?

- Who are you intentionally stirring toward greater love and good works?

3.DON'T DRIFT AWAY FROM THE CHRIST WHO SAVED YOU

Hebrews 10:26–31

“For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins...”

—Hebrews 10:26

- This is a serious warning, but it is not meant to crush tender believers who are struggling, grieving, or afraid. Hebrews is

addressing a settled and persistent turning away from Christ—a deliberate rejection of the One who alone can save.

- The warning is severe because the gospel is precious. Since there is only one sufficient sacrifice, rejecting Christ leaves no other sacrifice available. Yet the very fact that Scripture warns us is also an expression of God’s mercy: He calls us to wake up, return, and remain near to Christ.
- The gospel announces both: EXTRAORDINARY MERCY and SOBERING JUDGMENT
- God’s judgment is real, and the coming Day means history is moving toward Christ’s return and the triumph of His kingdom. But these truths are not given to drive faithful believers into despair. They are meant to turn our hearts away from false refuges and back toward the safety, mercy, and sufficiency of Jesus.
- Temporary comforts must not become ultimate allegiances. Good gifts such as career, family, education, financial stability, rest, recreation, and personal goals can be received with gratitude. They become spiritually dangerous when they gradually crowd out love for God and His people.
- Drift often begins quietly as: “I’m sooo busy.”, “We’re in a busy season.”. “I haven’t really connected lately.”, “We’ll get involved again eventually.”
- If you recognize yourself in these words, do not respond with shame or hopelessness. Bring your heart honestly to Christ. He is not reluctant to receive those who turn back to Him. Let His warning become an invitation to return, reconnect, and receive the help He provides through His people.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- WHICH WORLD IS SHAPING YOUR LIFE?

- How might the world—and even the legitimate cares of the world—be drawing your heart away from Christ and the hope of His coming kingdom?

GO DEEPER

- Which good thing has the greatest potential to become an ultimate thing in your life?

- What receives your best time, attention, affection, money, and energy?

- What does that reveal about what you believe is truly permanent?
- What gentle step of repentance, reconnection, or renewed trust might God be inviting you to take?

4.REMEMBER WHO YOU WERE WHEN FOLLOWING JESUS COST YOU SOMETHING

Hebrews 10:32–34

“But recall the former days...”

—Hebrews 10:32

- The Hebrews had endured suffering, identified with mistreated believers, and accepted the loss of possessions with joy because they knew they had: “a better possession and an abiding one.” — 10:34
- Their costly community demonstrated that this world was not their final treasure. They stood with one another, shared suffering, risked reputation, and lived in light of eternity.
- Hebrews calls them to remember seasons when faith was less comfortable but more alive, when prayer mattered, gathering was precious, and inconvenience could not keep them from God’s people.
- Remembering is not meant to shame you for where you are today. It is meant to remind you of God’s faithfulness and of the grace He has already given you. The same Lord who sustained you before is able to meet you again now.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- What memory of yourself or God’s people inspires you to live in community beyond the pull of comfort, independence, and self-protection?

GO DEEPER

- Who has demonstrated costly Christian community to you?
- What did their life teach you about what actually matters?
- What have comfort and independence possibly caused you to forget?
- Where have you seen God sustain you in the past?

5.DON’T THROW AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE

“Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.”

—Hebrews 10:35

- The answer to the warning is not panic but perseverance. We do not need to respond to God’s warnings by hiding from Him.
- We respond by drawing nearer to Him and receiving the endurance He supplies.
- “For you have need of endurance...” — 10:36 And: “Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay.” — 10:37
- Because Jesus is coming: We GET to - Draw near. Hold fast. Consider one another. Gather. Encourage. Endure.
- Hebrews contrasts shrinking back with living by faith and concludes: “But we are not of those who shrink back...” — 10:39
- This is not a boast in our own strength. It is a hopeful declaration of what God is able to do in His people. Christ saves us, and He faithfully works through the community into which He has placed us.
- Through His people, He encourages, corrects, comforts, reminds, strengthens, and stirs us to hold fast.

PRESERVING COMMUNAL GRACE

- Christian community is not a substitute for Christ, and it is not a place where we must pretend to have everything together.
- It is one of the ordinary ways Christ cares for His people. We come with our weaknesses, receive grace, and learn to offer grace to others.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- What would it be like to live more fully in the preserving communal grace of God—with courage, honesty, and freedom from shame—as you wait for the fulfillment of His promises?

GO DEEPER

- What would you need to stop hiding?
- Where would you need greater courage?
- Who would you need to let closer?
- Whom might God be calling you to pursue, encourage, or strengthen?
- What would need to change in your weekly rhythms for Christian

community to become a genuine priority rather than something fitted around everything else?

CLOSING DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

- The message of Hebrews 10 is not: "Go to church more so God will accept you." Jesus Christ has already done everything necessary to bring you into God's presence. His sacrifice is sufficient, your sins have been dealt with, the way has been opened, and your great High Priest is seated.
- So, wherever you find yourself today: Draw near as family. Hold fast together. Consider one another. Gather sincerely. Encourage courageously. Endure united to the very end.
- If you have drifted, Christ invites you to return. If you are weary, He meets you with grace. If you are isolated, He calls you back into the care of His people. If you are afraid, remember that your hope rests not in your ability to hold on perfectly, but in the faithfulness of the One who has promised.
- Behind us stands Christ's finished sacrifice. Before us stands His coming Day. Between the Cross and the Coming, God has given us one another. So let us hold fast together!