

We Are The Church

Pt. 15 - "Healthy Churches Preserve Together"

Hebrews 3:12-15 | February 15th, 2026

A Working Definition of the Church

"A group of Christians who assemble as an earthly embassy of Christ's heavenly kingdom, to affirm one another as his citizens through the ordinances. To proclaim the good news and commands of Christ the King, to display God's own holiness & love through a unified and diverse people; as they follow the teaching and example of the pastors/elders & overseers.

> The goal for this sermon series was to lead us into a better/deeper understanding of what a church is. And in doing that, I prayed that the Lord would make us *healthier*.

~ For the final sermon, we need to think about how healthy churches *preserve* or *persevere* together. When you preserve something, you act/fight to keep alive, intact, or free from decay.

~ *1 John 2:19* "... *they went out from us, they were not of us....*"
~ Persevering together means we live together in such a way that helps one another achieve success in a common goal despite the difficult circumstances.

1. _____ Yourself Against the Sin of _____ -
_____ in Faith. (v.12)

Context:

~ The author explains the need to take care of each other by pointing us to Psalm 95:7-11. The writer uses the example of unbelieving Israel. God warned the Israelites to endure in faith. Instead of trusting their Creator, they provoked Him...

> Guarding Ourselves is a Call to Deal with Our Hearts!

* John 3:19 - "And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness..."

~ It is important to always recognize the connection between the heart and mind! We must not forget that in many cases (if not all) the heart governs the mind.

Piper once said ... "What the heart loves can blind the mind to the light."

> Ephesians 4:18 - "They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart."

> John 7:17

2. _____ One Another Towards _____ Living -
_____ is Not Promised (v.13)

~ One of God's ordained means in your life for you to be guarded from the hardening of your heart is to have other Christians around you speaking words of truth and faith and live into your life.

~ Why do we do this? Why is this so urgent? Because of the language used here in v. 13. The author brings the element of time into the exhortation. We don't have much time!

3. We All _____ a Common _____ - Hold Fast to his _____, Mercy, and _____. (v. 14)

> Notice the wording and the order of the beginning of v. 14. = "**We have come to share - if indeed we hold firm to the end.**"

~ What if we flipped the order? It would say "If you hold to your confidence firm to the end, then you have come share in Christ."

> This isn't necessarily conditional. It says *since* we (YOU) have come to share in Christ, that will get you to the end!