

(Hebrews 10:19–25 ESV) 19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean 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 how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

(2cor 3:18 ESV) And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another] For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

The first step away from God is the first step away from God's people.

From the Latin, *communis*: "common, shared commonality,"

Luther: "At home, in my own house, there is no warmth or vigor in me, but in the church when the multitude is gathered together, a fire is kindled in my heart and it breaks its way through."

Any kind of group or organization can build their own community based on similar interests, tastes, or class - and the gospel doesn't ever have to be mentioned or observed.

Gospel Community is more than just coming to church. It's "one another-ing."

3 things 24-25 tell us about gospel community:

1. Considering

24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

In verse 22 it says, "We draw near to God through the blood of Jesus."

In OT worship - the worshippers could not draw near.

How do you access the access of drawing near? Gospel Community.

To consider actually means to spend time thinking how you will invest in others.

Do you have a set of people around you that you know are actively thinking about how you can grow and they're thinking about, "How can I help you grow?"

The Bible doesn't have any distinctions. It doesn't say, "Depending on your personality type, spur each other up to love and good works." No, you have to consider.

(Mark 8:36) *For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?*

If you listed every minute of your day, where would your time be going to? How much of it is just a waste? How much is going to temporary things?

2. Stirring Up (spurring) paroxysmos (paro-six-mose')

24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works

Stirring up means to irritate each other, to sharply confront

3. Encouraging - parakaleo

25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

It means to empathetically, sympathetically put yourself in somebody's shoes, show them you're really for them, and support them in what they're trying to do.

(Rom 1:11-12) *For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— 12 that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine*

If Paul needed it, then we need it. If the Romans can encourage Paul, we can encourage other Christians.

What are ways for us to be in gospel community?

1. The gathering
2. Fresh Encounters 2-5-17
3. Small groups (consider the mission statement)
4. Discipleship