

Better Together

October 16, 2016 | Wonderful Mercy Church

Hebrews 10:23-25

PASSION TRANSLATION

“So now we must cling tightly to the hope that lives within us, knowing that God always keeps his promises! ²⁴Discover creative ways to encourage others and to motivate them toward acts of compassion, doing beautiful works as expressions of love.

Hebrews 10:23-25

PASSION TRANSLATION

²⁵This is not the time to neglect meeting together, as some have formed the habit of doing, because we need each other! In fact, we should come together even more frequently, eager to encourage and urge each other onward as we anticipate that day dawning.”

The Instructions

- Each specific instruction here is set in the context of, and therefore can be realized only in, community
- cling tightly | knowing | discover | encourage others | motivate them | doing beautiful works | (don't) neglect meeting together | come together | encourage and urge each

Together

- Our being together is a reflection of the godhead itself – Father, Son, Holy Spirit all together
- **John 1:1** NIV
“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

Together

○ **John 1:2** PASSION

“They were together—face to face, in the very beginning.”

○ **John 15:26** PASSION

“And I will send you the Divine Encourager from the very presence of my Father. He will come to you, the Spirit of Truth, emanating from the Father, and he will speak to you about me.”

Together: The Only Way Forward

- It is a key concern in this letter that we must move forward because if we're not, then we'll go backwards.
- **Hebrews 6:1 a, 3** PASSION
“Now is the time for us to progress beyond the basic message of Christ and advance... ³So with God's enablement we will move on to deeper truths.”

All Together Now

- We cannot lay our relative fitness or capacity for community at the feet of temperament
- Loudon Wainwright III's anthem to isolation, "One Man Guy"



extreme introvert



extreme extrovert

*Introvert. Extrovert. Doesn't matter.
It's better together.*

Why Is It Better Together?

- 59% of Americans say “Worshiping alone or with one’s family is a valid replacement for regularly attending church.” [2016 State of American Theology Research Report, Lifeway Research, p. 5]
- Much strength arises from being together and worshiping together
- **Matthew 18:20** VOICE
“When two or three gather together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

Why Is It Better Together?

- Community increases love
- **1 John 4:8b** NIV
“God is love.”
- **Hebrews 10:24** PASSION
“Discover creative ways to encourage others and to motivate them toward acts of compassion, doing beautiful works as expressions of love.”
- Where love increases, the things of God must follow

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