

habits of grace

LISTEN. SPEAK. BELONG.

WEEK 4 : BELONG (HEBREWS 10:23-25)

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 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."

- Hebrews 10:23-25

QUOTE

"...the means of grace are the various channels God has appointed for regularly supplying his church with spiritual power. The key principles of the means of grace are Jesus's voice (word), his ear (prayer), and his body (church). The various disciplines and practices, then—our habits of grace—are ways of hearing him (his word), and responding (in prayer) to him, in the context of his people (the church)."

- Habits of Grace

THE CHURCH - WHAT CHRISTIANS BELONG TO

"...the Word, the gospel, creates not just people individually, but a people, collectively. The gospel isn't just individual and cosmic, it is also deeply corporate." - Creature of the Word

1. Read Hebrews 10:19-22. What does Paul's use of words like "brothers", "we", "us", "our", "house of God" tell us about christinity not being individual but communal?

What has this habit of belonging looked like in your life?

2. Why is it crucial that Jesus is the "great priest over the house of God" (vs. 21, see also Colossians 2:15-23)?

"TAPPING INTO THE GRACE OF GOD IS ESSENTIAL FOR OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES. THOUGH WE CAN'T MAKE THE FAVOR OF GOD FLOW, WE CAN POSITION OURSELVES TO RECEIVE THE FAVOR HE HAS PROMISED."

THE GOSPEL - WHAT THE CHURCH IS TO BE ABOUT

"The church is the community of the Word, the Word that reveals the plan and purpose of God. In the church the gospel is preached, believed, obeyed. It is the pillar and ground of the truth because it holds fast the Scriptures." - Edmund Clowney, The Church

3. Why is that important/primary for the church to "hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering" (vs. 23)?

What causes churches/individuals to "waver" from the gospel?

4. How does knowing that "he (God) who promised is faithful" empower us to "hold fast to the gospel"?

MEETING TOGETHER - HOW THE GOSPEL IS PROCLAIMED AND LIVED

"The remarkable thing here is not the summons to keep meeting together, but the instruction that when you do, look past your own nose to the needs of others...Know each other. Get close. Stay close. Go deep. And consider particular persons, and interact with them, such that you exhort and inspire them to love and good deeds specifically fitting to their mix." - Habits of Grace

5. What does the gospel (vs. 23) the compel the church to be about (vs. 24-25)?

Why is it important to meet together (formally and informally)? What are challenges to that?

6. Verse 24 says for "us" to "consider how stir one another up to love and good works"? Who are specific people you can encourage and build up? How?

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