

Knowing One Another // 9.26.21 // Hebrews 10:24-25

I. INTRO

We have been going through our vision series over the past few weeks. And seeking to follow where God wants us to go and how we are to do that.

And we are a church who believes that our mission is to be a diverse community that follows Jesus, loves people, and is safe to be known.

And during the first two weeks of our series we have been looking at this stool as an example of the evangelical church. And over the past 20-30 years we have seen how the church has in general operated primarily on one leg of the stool. Evangelical Christianity has been by in large been focused on “what we know about God”.

And as we walk through this series, we aren't saying that knowing about God is wrong in any way, it's just incomplete.

The whole of the Bible helps us see we are to know God - know who He is, to know ourselves in light of being known by God, and to be known by others.

Those are the other two legs of the stool. So we have:

1. Know God - committed to the Word
2. Know Ourselves - church has to be a safe place to be known.
3. Know Others - we must be committed to one another.

So, as a church how do we accomplish our mission? Like THIS.

Teaching - Knowing God, inerrant, inspired Word

Healing - knowing ourselves and where Jesus wants to transform us

Incarnation - knowing one another through being committed to one another

II. THIS WEEK we are going to look at Hebrews 10: 24-25, ESV

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.

CONTEXT

The context for this text this morning is that we find ourselves in the middle of an incredibly pivotal point in the book. The writer of Hebrews has just spent all of the previous 9 chapters of teaching and preaching to lay out deep doctrinal truths about God in and through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Jewish people are beginning to be persecuted for leaving Judaism. They have committed their lives to following Jesus and His way. It's become costly for them to follow Jesus in every way.

Hebrews is a word of comfort to them. He reminds them that Jesus is better, His way is better. The book is an encouragement to people struggling with discouragement.

III. SO WE GET TO OUR text today and see that it is timely for us today in our current reality. These verses have much for us to consider:

And let us consider

1) Immediately we see a pronoun. It isn't you, me, or I. It's us. This is for all believers to hear do something with.

2- Why is this important for us to note?

-Culture that is individualistic.

-And consumeristic.

3) the word consider is a word that requires us to slow down.

It means we have a catalog of relationships and knowledge about those relationships upon which the text translates we should take notice, observe carefully, to look at in a reflective manner, or to think about carefully.

These first few words can be problems for us.

Culture - me, me, me.

What am I getting? and then busyness, who has time to be reflective, and observe carefully the lives and interests of others?

Our world's vision of community is for me.

The God's vision of community is others.

how to stir up one another to love and good works,

I love this word. Stir can be translated to mean rousing to activity, stirring up (as the ESV translates), and provoking.

Fireplace Iron + Wood example.

What are the things we are to stir one another up to?

That's a great question!

You have to know someone in order to stir them up to love and good works.

It can't be a nicety. It can't be simply "Hi, have a great day. God loves you."

While that is nice and true it certainly has no ability to help carry someone who is struggling or apathetic.

Stirring one another up is an exercise in knowing people enough to begin to recognize what God has gifted them in and how that can relate to their life right now.

Remember we live in a culture built around
What does it look like to consider someone else?

STORY OF PATRICK - brokenness and Wood Log (good in fireplace / bad outside)
STORY OF PATRICK, KATIE, ANNA, KEVIN - dinner

What does it mean to encourage one another.

Parakaleo =

Coming alongside and calling them into who and what God has called them to do following him.

to call to one's side, call for, summon
to address, speak to, (call to, call upon), which may be done in the way of exhortation, entreaty, comfort, instruction, etc.
to admonish, exhort
to beg, entreat, beseech
to strive to appease by entreaty
to console, to encourage and strengthen by consolation, to comfort
to receive consolation, be comforted
to encourage, strengthen
exhorting and comforting and encouraging
to instruct, teach

It is literally to "GIVE COURAGE" to face what you are facing.

Like a soldier in a battle.

Incarnation: Knowing one another through being committed to one another.

There is a deep sense of discouragement that exists in our church and in in our culture at large.

What we see all around us is a culture of discouragement. We criticize, they criticize, I criticize, you criticize.

We live in a critical culture. Everyone complains.

This happens in the church. We can be so critical of one another

Proverbs 18:21 - the tongue has the power of life or death.

ODP STORY - DAZZLE THEM (if time)

IV. CONCLUDE

Our strategy of understanding the Incarnation and its impact on our ministry here at Grace Hill can be best understood in these four Cs:

4 Cs:

Commitment - never leaving

Consistency - always there

Content - one another

Curiosity - interest in others' lives

Be committed and consistent with your presence and words for encouragement to others here. It gives life to our souls when we gather together to this end. All for God's great glory.

AMEN.