



The Church, Encouraging and Taking Care of One Another T.O.D.A.Y.

April 28, 2024

Text: Hebrews 10:23-25

²³ Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. *(KJV)*

A few thoughts from the text.

- This text speaks to our need to hold tightly to each other as we walk together in Christ.
- Your faith could be shattered without the support of your church family.
- God is faithful.
- The word *provoke* is used to challenge the Christian to action.
- The writer reminds us of the pending good work we must complete.
- The writer uses “*one another*” twice in conjunction with “*let us*” to highlight the togetherness we must have.
- We must assemble for worship for we are not like the world. We are a light for the world.
- We have a limited amount of time together.

1. A few benefits for attending a local church.

- We get the preached Word in person.
- We get to worship with others who love Jesus Christ.
- We learn how to deal with trials and tribulations.
- We learn more about this thing we call life and our purpose.

- It strengthens our faith.
- We get consistent teaching from our under-shepherd.
- We get to fellowship corporately.
- We get to partake in the ordinance, the Last Supper (Communion).
- We are encouraged by our brothers and sisters.
- We learn how to serve properly.
- We learn how to realign our emotions and actions.

2. Why should the Christians look after one another?

- We are commanded!

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (*Jn 13:34-35; NIV*)

¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends (*Jn 15:12; NIV*)

³⁷Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’^[c] ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^[d] ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (*Matt 22:37-40; NIV*)

- It shows the love of Christ in us!

2 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others (*Phil 2:2-4; ESV*)

- You are your brother/sister's keeper!

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (*Gal 6:2; ESV*)

- a. Your lack of action could cause them to fall.

- b. If they are out of line (sinning), you address it.
 - c. It may be neither convenient nor easy.
- If you do not, the world will!

⁵Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father^[d] is not in them *(1 Jn 2:15; ESV)*

³³Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character. *(1 Cor 15:33; NIV)*

- The devil is very active!

⁸Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. *(1 Pe 5:8; NIV)*

3. A few benefits to looking after each other.

- We can encourage our brothers and sisters who are struggling with being in the world but not of the world.

¹⁹My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, ²⁰remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins. *(Jam 5:19-20; NIV)*

- When we encourage each other, we are lights in a sinful and dark world as well as voices and representatives of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. *(Matt 5:14-16; NIV)*

¹²We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. ¹³If we are “out of our mind,” as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. ¹⁶So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:^[a] The old has

gone, the new is here! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. (*2 Cor 5:12-20; NIV*)

- We encourage each other by remaining focused on God's plan (the Great Commission), not ours. It is okay to have a plan as long as it coincides with God's plan.
- Our encouragement creates lifelong relationships in the body of Christ.
- We encourage each other by sharing our burdens and work through them based on the Word.

²We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. (*ROM 15:1; ESV*)

¹⁰God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. (*Heb 6:10; NIV*)

4. Remember this acronym as you go through your week: T.O.D.A.Y.

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³⁶“However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself.^[k] Only the Father knows. (*Matt 24:36; NLT*)

- Time does not wait for anyone!
- The days of “I will do it tomorrow or next week” has long passed us. Take advantage of the gift of time for we all have a limited amount.

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³³I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”(*Jn 16:33; NLT*)

- If Christ has overcome the world, why are we sometimes afraid to go or do what He has commanded?
- Perhaps our prayer should be like the apostles: “Lord increase our faith!” (*Luke 17:5; NIV*)

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² I am the LORD your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. ³ “You must not have any other god but me. (*Ex 20:2-3; NLT*)

- Your deliverance is in your obedience. Stop waiting for your circumstances to get better or pan out (they may or may not); just do what the Father says.

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⁸ Then I heard the Lord asking, “Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?” I said, “Here I am. Send me. (*Is 6:8; NLT*)

- One of our greatest attributes is our availability. God, many times will use the least qualified but the one who is most available to accomplish His goal.
- Have you made yourself available for Christ? Are there times when you know you should have but did not? Remember, “...it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” (*Philippians 2:13; KJV*)

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¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! (*2 Cor 5:17; NLT*)

- We spend too much time looking back on yesterday. You cannot recoup it. If you could, you probably would still mess it up because you are in it. So, brothers and sisters, focus on the now and move forward in Jesus Christ.

Final Thoughts:

Do not get tired in doing God’s work. The church is foundational to walking the Christian life. God has appointed an undershepherd to feed, pray, teach, and walk with you. Do not forsake the assembly and look after each other. When it is all said and done, the lives you impacted by sharing the Gospel and encouraging your brothers and sisters is worth the “No,” blocked calls, unopened doors or just plain old “mind your business.” Remember that at one time or another you were lost and unchurched.

Amen.