

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Being Together

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Hebrews 10:24-25

Theme: Get together with your brothers and sisters so that fellowship can happen.

Introduction: We know that true fellowship happens in person. Consider how ludicrous it would be for a husband to leave his new wife behind immediately after the wedding to go on vacation. It would be contrary to reason and to the vows that he had just made. People who love one another want to be together. So it is in God's family, the church: our love for one another is expressed in the fellowship that we experience together in person.

We can explore the relationship between fellowship and presence in 2 points:

1. Fellowship requires being together

Fellowship has some preconditions. Last week we saw that the foundational condition is Jesus himself: our fellowship arises from belonging to him together. The second precondition is presence: fellowship requires being together. If we neglect to meet, we will miss out on the ability to stir up one another. However, when we do gather, we are able to encourage one another. That is one of the clearest and most undeniable purposes for gathering. It is also the way that we demonstrate our unity: by being together, united by our love for Jesus which produces love for one another (John 13:35). This true unity in Christ overrides the things that would otherwise separate us, and unites us at a deeper level than anything else could.

2. Fellowship stirs us up

We are commanded to be intentional in pursuing fellowship, and that for at least 3 reasons: a) to help prevent shipwrecks of faith; b) for fellowship during our inevitable trials; and, c) to fight against the choking, weakening influences in life. As we embrace our responsibility to 'stir up one another', we become a means of God's grace to one another in love, good works, And we are to do this 'all the more as we see the Day drawing near.' The reality of Jesus' return is part of what motivates us to prioritize fellowship in person with one another.

Questions:

1. What does your schedule reveal about how you prioritize being with the church?
2. How are you seeking to 'stir up' those God has given you responsibility for?
3. How would you like to grow in fellowship?