

LOVE EACH OTHER! – FELLOWSHIP

INTRO

Fellowship is our theme this month.

Hebrews 10:24-25

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (NIV)

Background

- **Hebrews** was probably written before AD 70 as the destruction of the Jerusalem temple in AD 70 is not mentioned.
- The writer is unknown but the 2 favoured candidates are:
 1. **Barnabas**; He was from the priestly tribe of Levi, an intellectual Jewish Christian who befriended Paul. Tertullian in AD 200 quotes Barnabas as the likely writer.
 2. **Apollos**; He is the favourite among scholars as he was also a very intellectual Jewish Christian *“with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures” (Acts 18:24)*.
- Christians were slowly receiving more and more persecution from the Romans as Emperor Nero came into power from AD 54-68.

Perseverance

The Hebrews letter is written **encouraging** the Jewish Christians to:

1. **Remain true** to the GOSPEL and not go back to the LAW.
2. **Be strong** in the face of persecution.

1) LET US CONSIDER HOW...

LOVE FIRST

God wants us to think of others here. THIS IS FELLOWSHIP.
Here the writer is saying *“think how to encourage...”*

As Christians we should be filled with Love.

...motivated by LOVE.

God is Love. Grace is for FREE!! This is our starting point.

NOW...When Love does control us:

1. We think of God
2. We think of others

BUT...ONE STEP FURTHER...

The writer here is asking us to go further & think on how to encourage **others** to LOVE. That's true selfless LOVE.

When we love we must love people the way they receive it.

EXPLAIN – “5 Love Languages” - Dr Gary Chapman

1. Gifts
2. Quality Time
3. Physical Touch
4. Acts of Service
5. Words of Affirmation

Why is Love & Good Deeds so important to Christians?

You can see why we are called “do good-ers!” “goody too shoes”

Love changes things - “Love makes the world go round”

Good Deeds – People see them and realise we are REAL & CHANGED.

Outward sign of an inward reality

2) ...NOT GIVE UP MEETING

WHY is “church” so important? It’s NOT!!!

We are important!

When I ask people at work to come to church they get angry. **EXPLAIN**

I don’t need to come to your church

God is everywhere!

Church is an Institution!

In the early church people didn’t say:

“Hey, Jesus is Messiah! Really? Why not come to church with me?”

They said:

“Hey, Jesus is Messiah! Really? Why not come to my house?” **EXPLAIN**

Church has become a building **even to us. An idol?**

We should meet together to:

1. Worship God together
2. Encourage each other
3. Love each other & meet each other’s needs
4. Spur each other on in good deeds
5. Balance each other out!
6. REACH OUT TOGETHER

Church literally means: *“People called out”* for a common purpose.

THAT’S IT! E.g. South-End church. **IF WE DON’T WANT TO COME TO CHURCH THEN WE HAVE TO LOOK AT EACH OTHER !**

CONCLUSION – Practical

In Groups:

- 1) How can I love more? NOW in this church. TODAY**
- 2) How can I encourage others to Love more?**

Not *“How can I tell them what they should be doing”*

BUT *“How can I free them up & help them to love others”*

What God sees: their gifts and abilities

DISCUSS after 5 mins with each other as honestly as possible what you have decided.

FEEDBACK – if time

PRAY

- **God would fill us with His love, Holy Spirit & grace**
- **God would give us wisdom and joy to love others and help them out**