

Better Together

Long Beach Alliance Church • January 4th, 2009 • Pastor Chris Lankford

LET US HOLD FAST THE CONFESSION OF OUR HOPE WITHOUT WAVERING, FOR HE WHO PROMISED IS FAITHFUL; AND LET US CONSIDER HOW TO STIMULATE ONE ANOTHER TO LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS, NOT FORSAKING OUR OWN ASSEMBLING 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 (NASB)

1) That They May All Be One...

- A) On the night Jesus was betrayed, He prayed to God the Father for the power of the Word (the Bible) to sanctify (keep pure) His disciples (John 17:13-19).

- B) Clearly, Christ wants everyone who follows Him to be marked by the Word of God. The Word allows us to be "in the world, but not of the world" (17:15-16).

- C) Further Christ prayed that God would provide a unique and observable unity for all His disciples "so the world might believe..." (17:20-21). Clearly, following the Master means that we value living "life together."

2) The Example Of The Earliest Church

- A) The disciples of Jesus Christ considered "living life together" an essential element of following Jesus Christ. The earliest church lived as a family, sharing all things with one another (Acts 2:43-47).
- B) Note the priorities/impacts of the earliest church:
- i) **Teaching** (God's Word; vs. 43)
 - ii) **Faith** (content, trust, endurance; vs. 44a)
 - iii) **Unity** (shared all things in common; vss. 44b, 46)
 - iv) **Generosity** (shared with one another; vs. 45)
 - v) **Communion/Meals** (vs. 46)
 - vi) **Worship & Prayer** (vs. 47a)
 - vii) **Growth** (vs. 47b)

3) We Do Most Things Better Together

- A) We are called to "love one another" (1st John 4:7), because God has loved us (4:8). Loving others flows out of our relationship with Jesus (4:19).
- B) The world is marked by an individualism which rejects unity and living life together (2:15-24). Abiding in Christ, and living life together with each other is an example to the whole world of Christ's love (John 13:35).
- C) While all the priorities of the earliest church could be accomplished individually, the impact of the earliest church was that all of God's great priorities were accomplished better together! This is the clear unifying call of Scripture!