

A Biblical Philosophy of Church Attendance (Part Three)

(Review)**I. The structure of Hebrews 10.19-25**

The Foundation (19-21)

- Confidence because of the blood of Christ (“since” 19-20)
- Confidence because of the Priesthood of Christ (“since” 21)

The Exhortations (22-25)

- Let us draw near (to Christ) (22)
- Let us hold fast the confession (of Christ) (23)
- Let us consider how to stimulate one another (for Christ) (24-25)

These exhortations could find expressions as imperatives, commands, (“You there! Draw near! Hold fast! Consider!”) but instead the writer of Hebrews exhorts, saying, “Join with me in drawing near, holding fast, considering how...” There is imperatival force in his language, but he chooses a more inclusive tone, urging his readers forward in their faith. Lest I diminish the *urge*, let me add that this exhortation can rise very close to the force of a regular imperative.¹

The Meaning of Verse 25

- Third Exhortation:
 - Let us consider how to stimulate one another (for Christ) (24-25)
- Verse 25:
 - Not forsaking:
 - But encouraging (parakaleo):

} Adverbial participles of *means* (answer the question of “**how**”?)

“Not forsaking...”

- Not a command
- Rather, an explanation of how to NOT fulfill the exhortation, “Let us consider one another”
- Contrasted with the explanation of how to fulfill the exhortation “encouraging one another”

¹ Pastor Don, [Putting Hebrews 10 into Perspective - an Oxgoad, eh? \(substack.com\)](https://www.substack.com/p/putting-hebrews-10-into-perspective)

II. Developing the Others Orientation

Note: For this lesson, I searched through the “one another” passages of the Epistles, concentrating on those that particularly applied to the life of the body, the Christian church.

- Meeting together (Rm 1.11-12 ‘one another faith’)
- Exercising our gifts in the body (Rm 12.5-7)
- Cultivate brotherly love (Rm 12.10)
- Cultivate humility, associate with the lowly (Rm 12.16)
- Care for one another [in the body] (1 Cor 12.14-26)
- Enduring one another in the body (Eph 4.1-4)
- Cultivating “body” language among one another (Eph 4.25-32)
- Cultivating Christian graces among one another (Col 3.12-17)
- Cultivate love for one another (1 Thess 3.11-13)
- Encourage one another and build up one another [in light of the coming day of wrath] (1 Thess 5.9-11)
- Pray for one another, confessing your sins (Jas 5.13-16)
- Be hospitable to one another, loving one another (1 Pt 4.7-10)
- Love one another (**1 Jn 3.11**, cf. 3.23, 4.7, 4.11, 4.12, 2 Jn 5)

To sum up:

- All of these admonitions are personal
- All of these admonitions involve corporate life (you do these things in relationship to others)
- These admonitions assume church assembly without commanding church assembly

Heb 10.24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ 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.

- You cannot fulfill the exhortation “consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds” by forsaking the assembly
- You can only fulfill the exhortation by interpersonal involvement, in connection with the assembly