

Starting Point: Called to Community

Hebrews 10:19-25

We are all searching for peace and purpose in life, which are ultimately found in relationship with God, and the only path to that relationship is found through faith in Jesus Christ. As we follow Jesus, He wants us to embrace the community of believers who are already walking alongside us in the pursuit of knowing God and making Him known.

Hebrews 10:21-22

... and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in the assurance that faith brings, because we have had our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The person who loves their dream of community will destroy community, but the person who loves [people] around them will create community.

Hebrews 20:23-24

And let us hold unwaveringly to the hope that we confess, for the one who made the promise is trustworthy. And let us take thought of how to spur one another on to love and good works

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"Nothing can be more cruel than the leniency which abandons others to their sin. Nothing can be more compassionate than the severe reprimand which calls another Christian in one's community back from the path of sin."

Hebrews 10:25

...not abandoning our own meetings, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and even more so because you see the day drawing near.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"It may be that Christians, notwithstanding corporate worship, common prayer, and all their fellowship in service, may still be left to their loneliness.

The final break-through to fellowship does not occur, because, though they have fellowship with one another as believers and as devout people, they do not have fellowship as the undevout, as sinners.

The pious fellowship permits no one to be a sinner. So everybody must conceal his sin from himself and from the fellowship. We dare not be sinners.

Many Christians are unthinkably horrified when a real sinner is suddenly discovered among the righteous. So we remain alone with our sin, living in lies and hypocrisy. The fact is that we are sinners!"

1 Peter 4:8

Above all keep your love for one another fervent, because love covers a multitude of sins

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The burden of men was so heavy for God Himself that He had to endure the Cross. God verily bore the burden of men in the body of Jesus Christ.

Colossians 3:13

...Bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if someone happens to have a complaint against anyone else. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also forgive others.