



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Drawing Near to One Another

Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: Hebrews 10:19-25

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:19-25 (NIV)

Sermon Outline:

The writer of Hebrews is letting the people know that in order to be in relationship with Jesus, we are to be in relationship with one another. The people did not see the need to be connected to community – they wanted God but did not want people. The writer is using logic to talk about community life, letting them know that they were called to something better which is Jesus Christ and the community of Jesus Christ.

We see the same thing happening today. There are many reasons why people do not meet in community and for some, we don't always know how to remain together. What does it mean to relate to one another with respect to Christ? How do we live life together in a world that is increasingly ripping us apart, and become a community that makes it easy for people to draw towards us and not away from us? We need to have a deep root system that connects us to one another.

The Church is to demonstrate something different. We are to be a place that moves people towards one another in grace, compassion, and love. Unfortunately, the pandemic has provided ample opportunity for people to move apart from one another, where we see community life deteriorating instead of bringing us closer.

The essence of loving God is found in our connection and love towards people – there is no me and Jesus in the Bible. We need to reimagine what it means to be in relationship with Jesus. You cannot have God without people and people without God.

Jesus's death represented the tearing of the veil giving us direct access to the presence of God. Christ died so that we could get to one another, making a way for us to enter into the presence of one another.

How can we live this out so that we are the type of community that people are drawn toward?

- We are to spur on one another towards love and good deeds.
- We are to encourage one another.

We are to live out these marks as a community because of what God has done for us. God draws near to us so that we are able to draw near to one another.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday Lead Pastor Richard Villodas leads us in a new sermon series called Life Together. Today Pastor Rich talks to us about the importance and power of community and how we are to draw near to one another.

Sermon Questions:

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, what traditions or norms did you grow up with that allowed you to connect with your extended family? Does that exist today? How has that changed?

3. Over the past year would you say you have moved away from or nearer to people? What has that process looked like? Are you contributing to discouragement or are you encouraging others around you? Can you be more intentional in speaking words of life to those around you this week?
4. What challenges do you find being in community? What benefits to you see?
5. What kind of community is needed to make it possible for people to draw near? How can you play a role in that community?
6. If you say that you love God and your neighbor, would your neighbors say that this is true? See if you can't take time this week to be more loving and compassionate, moving towards your neighbors and not further away from your neighbors.