



Sermon Discussion Guide

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Hebrews 10:19-25

Mark Dever, 11/14/22

Big Idea: The corporate gathering of the church is essential to the Christian life.

1. The audience of the Letter to the Hebrews was tempted to leave Christianity to go back to Judaism. What temptations have you seen draw people away from the faith?¹ What are some biblical truths that we can use to combat these?
2. Mark said, “When we pray it’s like we are living out our adoption in Christ.” How does adoption help us understand prayer?
3. The Church is defined primarily by *future* hope, rather than *past* failings. What problems arise when we get these mixed up?
4. The Christian life is kind of like “the stage of engagement between now and the wedding.” How does this give you hope in this season of life?
5. Read verses 24-25. The phrase “stir up” is meant to get our attention. Rather than provoking one another to evil, we are to provoke one another to “love and good works.” Is there a Christian you know who makes you want to love the Lord more? How has the Lord used them in your life?
6. Mark said, “A virtual church is about as useful as a virtual spouse, or a virtual body, or a virtual resurrection.” Live-streaming can be a blessing for those who are providentially hindered from coming to church on Sundays. What would you say to the type of person who *prefers* live-stream than gathering with the body? What might the author of Hebrews say to this person?²
7. Mark said, “To miss this [church gathering] should normally hurt, just like things being out of place in our body ordinarily cause us pain.” If a non-Christian asked you the difference between Church and any other gathering, what would you say? What are they missing out on?

¹ Dever mentioned secular school, reading, mocking arguments, arguments online, family and friends, sin that is constantly nagging us. Anything celebrated by the world and spoken against in the Word.

² Dever mentioned that John Gill (biblical commentator) wrote that not attending church is the first visible step of apostasy.