



Sermon Series: More Than a Sidekick: Serving Alongside Others

To be used with Session 1: Aaron and Hur

Sermon Title Possibilities: We Are In This Together

Scripture: Hebrews 10:23-25

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study “Aaron and Hur” this sermon builds upon today’s Bible study by expounding upon the reality that followers of Christ are meant to journey through life with one another. As Moses needed the assistance of Aaron and Hur, a follower of Jesus will need assistance from brothers and sisters in Christ.

Introduction: A quick internet search will reveal that there are fifty-nine “one another” commands written to the New Testament church. If we were in a classroom and heard the teacher say the same thing fifty-nine times, we would realize the teacher is trying to make a point. The Scriptures are to be our guide and it is abundantly clear that the church is meant to journey together as opposed to individuals living in isolation. As we learned in our Bible study groups, leaders need others around them in their journey. So too church members need others around us as we strive to walk with Jesus daily. So, the question becomes, what are we to do for one another as we journey together?

1. We are to hold on together (Heb. 10:23).

The first command we find in this text is to hold on to the confession of our hope. We have two important principles to learn from this passage. First, to hold on means to grasp tightly. We can picture a child that is holding on to her favorite blanket 24/7. Everywhere the child goes, the blanket is with her. If a parent tries to grab onto the blanket for its weekly wash, the child is more than reluctant to let go. This phrase is also written to show a continual and ongoing action as opposed to a one-time event.

In the manner that the child is holding onto a blanket, we are to hold on to confession of our hope without wavering. This leads to our second principle. The confession of our hope is Jesus Christ. As the hymn writer said, our hope is found in nothing less than Jesus’s blood and righteousness. Our hope is not found in religious activity or knowledge about Jesus. Instead, it is found in Christ, and we are to hold on to Him without wavering, together.

2. We are to watch out for one another (Heb. 10:24).

The next command is that we are to watch out for one another. This command, like the others, is written to show a continual action that is to be lived out in the now. Obedience to this command means actively considering how to help others live out their calling to fulfill the gospel. As we learned in our groups this morning, Aaron and Hur supported Moses as he

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lived in obedience to God's commands. We too can live in this manner in that we can watch out for ways to support one another in good works.

As we watch out for one another, we provoke our brothers and sisters in Christ to love and good works. Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:16). As a follower of Jesus, we are called to good works. We know that these works will not save us, but rather serve as evidence of our salvation. Sometimes, however, we may not see the good works in front of us. Therefore, we need our church family to watch out for these opportunities and provoke us to faithfully engage in these works for God's glory.

3. We are to gather together (Heb. 10:25).

Our next command is to gather together as a church family. Can a follower of Jesus have an encounter with Jesus at home on a Sunday morning, on the golf course, or somewhere else besides the church building? Yes. God is omnipresent and therefore not limited to a certain location. Can a follower of Jesus fulfill this command apart from gathering with other believers to celebrate an empty tomb, the goodness of God, and our confession of hope? No. The command is to gather together, and we need to be active within a church family to accomplish this command.

4. We are to encourage one another (Heb. 10:25).

Our final command is to encourage one another. We live in a time and culture in which encouragement is desperately needed. Even as a follower of Jesus, we can become discouraged at things happening within our culture, our place of work, and even within our own family circumstances. The calling for the church family is for us to be a place of encouragement, even when things are difficult.

Our source of encouragement is knowing that this is not our home, and that Christ will return soon. While we do not know the day, we can rest assured that we are one day closer, and we will be yet another day closer tomorrow. When we have others around us helping us to see the day of the Lord approaching, we can be encouraged to continue down the path ahead.

Conclusion: Before we can be found faithful in fulfilling the commands God gave to His church to journey together, we need to first make sure that we are a part of the Church. This does not simply mean membership at this church, but rather being a part of God's family. If you have not become a part of God's family, then today is a great day to say yes. If you are a part of God's family, then we see what He is calling us to be. Let's commit to journey together and not live in isolation. We all need the encouragement as we hold on to the hope found only in Christ.

Author Bio

Tod Tanner has degrees from Texas A&M University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has pastored churches in Texas and Tennessee. He and his family reside in Wartrace, TN and he serves as the Executive Vice President of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation.

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