



**Sermon Series:** The Heart of Worship

**To be used with** Session 6: The Gathering for Worship

**Sermon Title Possibilities:** The Gathering, Don't Skip Church, If You Miss Church, You Won't Miss Church, Better Together

**Scripture:** Hebrews 10:19-25; 13:12-15

**Connection with Unit Theme:** To complement the Bible study "The Heart of Worship," this sermon will help us see the need that we all have for community. We need community because God created us for community. It will also show the primacy of our commonality, which is Christ. It is Christ who brings us together corporately. We are unified in Christ for the purpose of worshipping Christ and Him alone.

### **Introduction:**

We live in a social media age. In this age, everyone can be social whether you are an introvert or an extrovert. You can build your brand without anyone knowing who you really are. Deep down inside all of us have a longing to be known, to be valued, and to be encouraged. Many people hide behind a screen but still have a desire to be seen. We have not been created to live life alone, but to live in relationship with others. The writer of Hebrews shows us why it is important to be together and to worship God corporately.

### **1. Together we draw closer to God. (Hebrews 10:19-22)**

Paul begins in verse 19 and goes all the way to verse 21 giving the reason that we can draw close to God; it is because of the blood of Jesus, our high priest who gives us access into the holy place. As a result of his life, death, and resurrection we can enter in. Christ is superior to any other priest; Paul calls Him the great high priest in verse 21. This high Christology is vitally important if we are going to understand how we can draw near to God, but also as assurance of our faith. We have been washed clean from our sins and can enter the presence of a holy God. The only way that we can enter in is by having been cleansed from all our sin. The priest in the Old Testament would come with blood of bulls and goats on behalf of the people for the forgiveness of sins. God's people can be confident that they can draw near to God because of Jesus's blood. The atonement of Christ cleanses us from all of our sins. Therefore, the only way that we can draw near to God in worship corporately is because of Christ. Remember as we gather, that Christ is who brings us together with each other and God.

### **2. Together our confession is stronger. (Hebrews 10:23-25)**

Paul called the people of God to be unwavering in their confession of Christ. Christ's words and work on the cross is the only hope that the people of God have. The people's commitment to this confession, that Jesus is Lord, is so strong that they seek to encourage each other to stay true to it. This is why we need each other. This Christology not only draws us closer, but it also makes us stronger. Our commitment around the confession of Christ makes the people of God stronger together. Paul gave the people of God another charge in verses 24 and 25. We are to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting meeting together. We are not only stronger together by holding on to our confession, but we are stronger together as we hold each other

accountable to love and good works. Where there is no accountability, there will be a lack of good fruit. Paul shows us here that our relationship with one another matters to our spiritual maturity. If we neglect to meet (vs.25) then we cannot be encouraged to hold to our confession, love, and good works. So, our gathering for corporate worship matters for our spiritual growth. As we gather corporately our worship grows stronger.

### **3. Together our service is more acceptable. (Hebrews 13:12-15)**

Jesus suffered in our place by going outside the camp where animals would be sacrificed. He would ultimately sacrifice Himself by dying on the cross in our place. The purpose of this sacrifice was to make those who have trusted in Him reflect Him. The only way this happens is by His blood (vs.13). As a result, God's people are willing to sacrifice their own lives in service to Christ. Why? C.T. Studd answered this question when he said, "There is only one life that will soon be past and only what is done for Christ will last."<sup>1</sup> This world and its pleasures are fleeting, but God's people who serve for Christ and His glory will live forever. It is not their works that will allow them to live forever, but it is about Christ's work that causes the people of God to work for His glory. They are willing to endure suffering because service to Christ will last. We do this together so that we may endure to the end.

### **Conclusion:**

Are you trying to live this Christian life alone? The Christian life is not meant to be lived alone, but to be lived in community with other believers in Christ. We are created for relationship with God and one another. God said to Adam that it was not good for man to be alone, so he created him a helper, woman (Genesis 2:18). Together they were better. In the same way, the people of God are better together. As we walk in this life as God's people, we do it daily and corporately. It is the way that God has designed us. When we do, we draw closer to God, our confession is stronger, and our service becomes more acceptable. There are no lone ranger Christians; we not only need Christ, but we need each other to grow in this life. As we do, we are willing to sacrifice all things for his glory and our good. Are you trying to live this life alone? Stop. Cling to Christ and to those around you. To God be the glory!

### **Author Bio**

*Quintell Hill is a graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Preaching from Clark Divinity School at Anderson University. He has served for 20 years in pastoral ministry and is the lead pastor of Multiply Community Church in Monroe, NC. He also serves as an African American Church Mobilization Strategist with the International Mission Board. He and his wife Christie have two daughters, Moriah and Kharis.*

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<sup>1</sup><https://reasonsforhopejesus.com/only-one-life-twill-soon-be-past-by-c-t-studd-1860-1931/>