

10.24 ESV: And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works...

A good work usually involves helping someone _____; or it could be a direct act of worship.

In the New Testament, love is not so much an emotion as it is a _____. Thus it can be unwavering, even though our emotions might waver.

God's kind of love is _____: Christ died to pay the penalty for our sins.

God's kind of love is _____: it is a gift of grace, not something we earn or deserve.

We devalue the concept of love by saying we love sports or we love movies. When we think about showing love to other people, we need to remind ourselves what kind of love God expects from us.

Our loving good works should reflect God's _____ kind of love, such that people who witness them know we are God-driven or crazy.

We are to "stir up" [ESV] or _____ each other into these loving good deeds. The Greek word is *παροξυσμός* [pah-rah-ksoos-MAHS], which is like a provocation. The only other New Testament use is in Acts 15.39, describing the argument Paul and Barnabas had, which caused them to part ways.

Without the exhortation or stirring up of other Christians, we will not _____ up to the level of love God desires for us, to go out and do amazingly loving good works.

We are to intentionally _____ how to stir each other up in this way.

We are instructed to think of ways to provoke one another into amazing, God-driven, God-revealing, good works of sacrificial and unconditional love! Think of how we can stir each other up to really shine God's light, to really glorify Jesus' name, by sharing God's amazing love!

10.25 ESV: ...not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Meeting together is essential for _____: the only way we can live out the one-another commands is if we spend time with each other.

Meeting together is essential for our own _____: God gave us the one another commands because we need to do those things for each other and receive those things from each other to stay emotionally and spiritually healthy.

Meeting together facilitates _____: amazingly loving good works among our group will shine God's light into the greater community, making Christ attractive to those who do not yet know him.

Meeting together facilitates our own spiritual _____: the context of Christian fellowship is essential for spiritual health and growth.

Is meeting for Sunday morning worship sufficient to live out all that we have discussed so far?

When we do meet together, we are to _____ one another. The Greek word here is παρακαλέω [pah-rah-kah-LEH-oh]. It had various meanings, but in Hebrews it means “to urge” or “to warn.”

According to Hebrews 3.12-13, we must exhort or _____ each other; otherwise, we might be deceived by sin, resulting in hardening of our hearts, such that we fall away from God.

From the author’s other uses of παρακαλέω, we conclude that 10.25, when it says to *encourage* each other in faith, means to encourage each other in the things that help us draw closer to God and warn each other about things that can take us away from God.

You actually are _____ away from God when you pursue your own goals and use your own methods; far better is to choose to walk by faith and obedience, following Christ by pursuing God’s will and using God’s methods.

We should warn each other about _____, even if it seems small by human standards, because even that is an active rebellion against God.

We should warn each other about _____, even if they are good things in themselves, because they can take us away from better things God has for us.

We need this accountability, because we are _____ to our corrupted flesh deceiving us.

We should warn each other about _____; else we will never realize it.

We always warn with grace and gentle love. We want to build each other up, not tear down; we want to turn each other back to God and his ways, not bring guilt. When someone else warns you, accept it graciously and pray about it, don’t just deny it.

We want to help each other _____. This comes from the Hebrew word שׁוּב [SHOOV] which means to turn back, to return to God. When you are in sin, turn back to God: stop sinning, confess your mistake to God, and return to obediently walking with him in grace.

We encourage each other to pursue ways of _____ more about God, connecting to God, serving God, and healing by God.

The hope of all believers is rooted in knowing that Jesus is _____ back! From this letter, it seems evident that God had revealed to the author that there soon would be a judgment on Israel in the year AD70, when God would allow the Romans to destroy Jerusalem and even the Temple. The author advised his readers to identify with Christ – the Messiah-savior sent by God – to avoid the judgment on that generation of Jews who had rejected him. It is possible the author hoped this judgment would be the time when Jesus would come back. Today, we identify with Christ to avoid the judgment of the world when Christ does return.

Action Steps

Form strong relationships with other believers in the church and spend time with them, encouraging each other in faith and holding each other accountable, so as to stay in a healthy relationship with God, even provoking each other into amazing acts of love and doing them together. [See sermon notes at groben.com.]