

becoming



vGroup Study



VINTAGE PRESS

Becoming: vGroup Study

Copyright © 2020 by Vintage Press

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior written permission of the publisher.

Written by Aubrey Zeigler.

Design, layout, and illustrations by Christopher Wilson.

BELONGING TO BECOME

In February 2020, few had any idea how big the coronavirus could grow. Over the months that passed, the world was turned upside down by a pandemic—something that almost all people on Earth had not personally experienced. It wasn't towns or cities or states that were completely shut down. It wasn't even just countries. The whole globe had to adapt to the new normal—a world of social distancing and lockdown. Events were cancelled, businesses closed, and it became our responsibility to stay apart.

It didn't take long for people to feel a compelling need for community. By not being able to share in each other's lives, people recognized just how important being with other people is. This is especially true for the Church, built to be a body and community of people who share faith in Christ and who spend their lives glorifying him. Even though we find ourselves still in trying times, God's Word makes it clear that it is imperative that we continue to commune with one another, encouraging one another and pushing each other toward Jesus.

- How has living in a COVID-19 world impacted your view of community?
- In what ways have you experienced community in the Church?
- Why is it important to gather together?

¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,

Hebrews 10:19–20

- What are the holy places?
- How are we to enter them and what should our attitude be?

Under the Old Covenant, the people met with God in the tabernacle, and only the high priest was allowed into the most holy part—the Holy of Holies—once a year. The people came to God trembling, fearing his perfection and holiness, including the high priest. However, under the New Covenant, sacrifices don't have to be offered again and again, but rather Jesus made his sacrifice for the sins of the people once for all. We as Christians can now approach the presence of God with confidence, resting in the finality and sufficiency of the blood of Jesus.

²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Hebrews 10:21–22

- Who is the great high priest?

- What can we do because we have a great high priest over the house of God?

- How are our hearts and bodies when we draw near?

Jesus is now our great high priest. No other priest is needed because of the finality of his sacrifice and atonement. Therefore, we can and should draw near to God with a true heart in full assurance of faith, knowing that our hearts have been sprinkled clean and our bodies are washed with pure water. We can come to God boldly because the sacrifice that Jesus gave was completely perfect and sufficient.

²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not 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.

Hebrews 10:23–25

- What are we to do according to verse 23?

- Why can we hold fast the confession of our hope?

- What does the author urge us to do in verses 24–25?

We can be assured of our hope in Jesus because God is faithful to keep his promises. As believers in the same promises, we have to stir one another to love and good works, and we cannot neglect meeting together, even if it isn't always in person. Community, fellowship, and encouragement will become increasingly more important.

As we saw in Hebrews 10, Jesus has done something amazing in changing how we as Christians relate to God. We can come to the very throne of God Almighty with confidence and boldness, knowing that we come as children who have been purified by Christ's sacrifice for us. What an incredible gift for us who God loved while we were still sinners. We can hold fast to our hope in God because of his unwavering faithfulness that he shows throughout scripture. As the Church, God has commanded us to meet together. We were not made to live the Christian life alone, so we must do our best to go forward living it together.

- What are your resistances to community? Is there anything holding you back from being in community or connecting more deeply?
- What does it practically mean to “not neglect to meet together?” What does this look like in your own life?
- How can you practically stir one another up to love and good works?
- What can we do, even during a pandemic, to increase Church community?