

“Persevering Together, Part 2”

Sermon Notes

- **If we are going to persevere together, building a culture of Christ-centered conflict resolution isn’t optional - it’s absolutely essential.**

****But how?***

By...

1. Confessing your sins to others (vv.12-14; Matthew 7:3-5a; James 5:16)

2. Confronting the sins of others (vv.15-17; Matthew 7:5b; Luke 17:3-4; Psalm 141:5; 1 Corinthians 5:12; 2 Timothy 2:24-26)

3. Claiming the gospel’s promises while heeding the gospel’s warnings (vv.18-29; 2:1-4; 3:7-4:13; 5:11-6:12; 10:26-39)

Next Week: Hebrews 13:1-6 - “Removing Roadblocks to Adoption”:

Orphan Sunday 2019

MEFC Community Group Study Guide

For the Week of 11/3/19 - 11/9/19

Getting Started

1. When was the last time a brother or sister in Christ took the initiative to lovingly confront a manifestation of sin in your life? Describe the encounter to the group. If this has never happened to you (and assuming you still commit sin now and again), why do you suppose that's the case?

Digging Deeper

2. Scripture is replete with calls not simply to *confess* our sins to one another (James 5:16) but also to *confront* the sins we see in one another (Matthew 7:5b; Psalm 141:5; 1 Corinthians 5:12; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Furthermore, the Bible teaches us that it's our glory to overlook an offense and that love *covers* a multitude of sins (Proverbs 19:11; 1 Peter 4:8). How do we determine when we ought to confront sin and when we ought to cover it? Take some time to reflect on this as a group.

Open Your Bible to Hebrews 12:18-29...

3. The entire discussion of confession and confrontation of sin in Hebrews 12:12-17 is set against the stark backdrop of 12:18-29. Read carefully through vv.18-29. What does this portion of Scripture address? How would you describe the tone of these verses on the whole?

4. What scene does vv.18-21 describe? (*Hint: If you're stuck, take a look at Exodus 19:1-20:21*) There are no fewer than seven vivid details that paint the portrait in these four verses. What are they?

5. Fascinatingly, even at the time of the initial giving of the law of Moses, it becomes crystal clear that the people of God stand in need of a mediator (see Exodus 20:18-21 especially). Nevertheless, Exodus 32:30-34 makes it plain that Moses will not assume that role. In fact, Hebrews 3:1-6; 11:23-28 and 12:1-2 all point to Jesus as the true and better Moses. How do vv.18-24 contribute to this theme?

6. Verses 22-24 provide seven details about Mount Zion that contrast with the seven descriptions of Mount Sinai. What are they? What is Mount Zion? To what does it refer, exactly? How do you know?

7. Trace the argument in vv.25-29. As the writer compares and contrasts Mount Sinai with Mount Zion, he reasons from the lesser reality to the greater one. He also makes a similar point in 2:1-4. Why is the gospel of Jesus accompanied by even greater warnings than the law of Moses? Explain.

8. Looking back over all of chapter 12, which specific verses or truths have been most personally impactful for you? Why? What sort of fruit do you see in your life as a result of our time as a fellowship studying Hebrews chapter 12?