



JANUARY 26, 2024 FRIDAY - DAY 19

# PRAY THAT WE WOULD CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER

HEBREWS 10:24

In the wake of the Wedgwood Shooting, there was a real need for church members to push each other along through the crisis not back to the old norm, but to a new norm.

## CONSIDERATION

The Greek word used here literally means not only "to consider one another" but also to consider and care for one another in order to exhort or spur them on, to stimulate them. Even though verse 25 says, "exhort one another," this is not the same Greek word *allelon* translated "one another" in our study. So, more fully translated, the verse would read: "Consider one another to exhort them to love and good works." The purpose of the consideration was to "exhort," or stimulate. We don't take the time to consider one another. We live in an increasingly isolated and lonely world. We shop through the internet; we get our money from an ATM machine; we purchase our food in a drive through restaurant, where all we see are the impersonal hands of someone handing us our burgers.

In Virginia there is a funeral home where one can drive through, pause at the window (supposedly commenting on how "natural" the body looks), and then drive on without ever having to get out of the car. We live in neighborhoods without sidewalks, with our garage in the back, surrounded by a privacy fence, but no front porch. These are our moats. Our homes are modern medieval castles!

The by word of our age is, "Mind your own business!" That is why the local church is the hope of the world! We are a body living in relationship with each other. Today's verse commands us to "consider one another." Literally, it means to stare through and take careful, continuous care of the one another; look after one another. Wives "consider" husbands.

They are constantly looking after and caring for us. They see that our clothes are clean and neat. They are more concerned about what we eat than we are trying to disguise broccoli and spinach in delicious casseroles. While such consideration is hopefully rooted in love, it also stimulates love.

## STIMULATION

The text urges us to "stir up" (stimulate) love and good works in each other. If the church is anything at all, it should be stimulating never boring. Robert Louis Stevenson once wrote in his journal:

"Went to church today was not greatly depressed." What an indictment! Church should never be mediocre and dull, and neither should Christians.

We should provoke folks to love. Some would object: "You cannot make people love you." Of course you can! Love and care are so rare these days that even your worst enemies are so desperate for it they'll shed their animosity to get it.

As Edwin Markham wrote:

He drew a circle that shut me out  
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.  
But love and I had the wit to win  
We drew a circle and shut him in!

You can also stimulate folks to good works. Any behavior modification teacher will tell you, when folks mess up at nothing or when they do good, shower them with praise.

**Bring out the best in one another. We should consider one another in order to exhort each to find his ministry within his own personality.**



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Abraham was a wanderer, an adventurer. God called him to travel to an unknown place. One woman was exhorted by her Pastor to find her ministry.

She decided her best asset was her smile, so she arrived early and stayed late each Sunday to smile people in and out of the church services. Another lady was exhorted to minister to lonely students at a nearby university, so she made index cards for the bulletin boards with invitations for tea and cookies at 4:00 p.m. each day in her home. At her funeral several years later, she had eighty pallbearers, all lonely students who had found a friend who ministered to them.

As you exhort others ask them three questions, and their ministry will likely come out of one of the answers:

- What tugs at your heart?
- What do you like to do?
- What are you good at doing?

The author of Hebrews goes on to give a negative illustration: "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together" (Heb. 10:25). The common term "inactive church member" is an oxymoron, Internally contradictive; like a blazing snowball, or a square circle. To be a member of a church is, by definition, to be active in the body, stimulating each other to love and to good works.

Pray that we would consider one another.

**And let us consider one another so as to stir up love and good works...**

**Heb. 10:24**

## PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

1. Pray that God will reveal your own spiritual gifts and then have you serve.
2. Pray that God will show you how to care for folks, especially family friends and church members.
3. Pray that God will send a spirit of care and concern for the members of your church.
4. Ask God to reveal what specific act of kindness you might do to stimulate someone to love and good works.

**We may have differences between each other, but we are never to attack one another.**