

SERMON SUMMARY FOR COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS, 09/07/14

Hebrews 10:19-25 — “God’s People in God’s Presence,” Ryan Kelly

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In a sentence: The Bible's teaching on the nature of salvation and the church has certain entailments for how we think about our Sunday corporate gatherings.

SUNDAY’S OUTLINE

Biblical Instruction on God’s Presence

1. The Confidence to Enter God’s Presence (19-21)
2. The Call to Enter God’s Presence Together (22-24)
 - Let us draw near (22)
 - Let us hold fast the confession (23)
 - Let us stir up one another (24)
3. The Context of Entering God’s Presence (19-25)

Some Implications for Sunday Mornings at DSC

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSING AND APPLYING THE SERMON TEXT WITH YOUR GROUP

1. This Sunday’s sermon was a break from our normal approach to working through books of the Bible. Ryan mentioned three related things we’ll be talking about across this past Sunday and next. What are they?
2. Hebrews 10:19-25 gives us a number of commands. What are some of them? Ryan pointed out some significant repeated words. What were they and what is their significance for how these verses are applied?
3. Hebrews 10 teaches us about the eternal weight and importance of Sunday morning with God’s people. When and how have you struggled with prioritizing corporate worship? How can you be more biblical in your approach to Sunday morning (bracket application to children for a moment)? Ryan listed thirteen reasons for including children in corporate. What were some of these reasons? Which were especially thought provoking or challenging for you? Ryan mentioned ten possible objections. Which resonated with you?

QUOTES, ILLUSTRATIONS, AND OTHER MATERIAL FROM THE SERMON

Ryan mentioned and quoted from an important article by John and Noel Piper, “The Family: Together in God’s Presence.” Here’s the link: <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-family-together-in-gods-presence>.

Ryan’s list of reasons for including children in corporate worship

1) It is inferred, or even assumed, in the Bible. 2) Corp Worship is central to the life of the church – as a means of meeting with God. 3) The transcendence of God, and the gravity of his worship, is uniquely captured in corporate worship. 4) There is a real need for kids to see mom and dad passionately pursue God in his worship. 5) It’s most consistent with the Bib principle that mom and dad bear chief responsibility for their children’s faith and growth and instruction. 6) It rightly pushes against the increasing fragmentation of families in our culture. 7) It also pushes against the compartmentalization of ages in our society. 8) It teaches kids to participate in an adult world that doesn’t revolve around them. 9) It teaches kids, especially little ones, to sit still, and listen. 10) It has a reciprocal or mutually-serving relationship to family worship. 11) Not all in our songs or sermons go over their heads. 12) Delaying their participation in corporate worship continues to feed kid-substitutes for corporate worship. 13) The cumulative effect is incalculable.

Ryan’s list of possible objections to including children in corporate worship

1) My child can’t sit still that long. 2) My child thinks it’s boring. 3) My kids say they don’t get anything out of it. 4) It’s a distraction for me, the parent, to bring them in. 5) This is the only chance I get all week to be alone and to breath a sigh of relief. 6) Others are distracted by my kids. 7) I feel an unhealthy competition about how my kid is behaving/misbehaving compared to others. 8) We want our kids with their peers and learning something that is age-specific. 9) We don’t have time to do both children’s ministry and corporate worship. 10) It’s too late. The kids are now in their teens and we missed our window.