What Kind of Church Part 7

Hebrews 10:19-25

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**God’s House**

The Bible regularly describes the people who love God as His house (c.f. Ex. 16:31, 1 Tim. 3:15, 1 Peter 2:5). In our passage this morning, the writer of Hebrews writes that we “have a great high priest over the house of God” (10:21). It’s an interesting picture, and it could easily be lost on us. When we think of a house, we typically picture a physical structure. In the Bible however, the term “house” (Greek ‘oikon’) emphasizes the idea of the place where you dwell. More than just four walls and a roof, the house was where you fixed your residence, where you settled in.

Where does God settle in? What does God call home? The stunning promise of the Gospel is that we are His home (2 Corinthians 6:16). The church is the living, spiritual house of God. He doesn’t dwell in temples or fancy sanctuaries, but among His people. Today, it’s very common to hear people talk about a kind of spirituality that is highly individualized and untethered from any community of faith. But this kind of relationship with God would have been nonsensical to the writers of the bible, and it should be nonsensical to us. The community of faith is God’s house. He dwells with us and we with Him.

What kind of Church is Jesus building at River West? He’s building the kind of church that functions like a family.

**Come Home**

In the tenth chapter of his letter, the writer of Hebrews paints a compelling picture of the family life of the church. In that family, we have full access to God because of the work of Jesus, and we are to respond accordingly to this immense privilege. But, what does that response look like? What does it mean for our community to live like God’s house in our world?

This morning we will look at some practical aspects of “family life” in the church. We will remember together the vital importance of spending time with one another, but we are also going to talk about how to actually do it. The most familiar verse in Hebrews 10 is probably verse 24. “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works”. This compelling instruction has such great power to transform our church. Are we living this out rightly in the house of God?

The themes of Hebrews 10 can only be lived out in the family of God. They do not and they cannot happen outside of his house. The writer of Hebrews is calling the church to a deeper participation in the life of the community. So, my prayer for you is that today you will come home. Have you been avoiding your family? Have you been resisting a full and committed participation in the community that Jesus is building? Perhaps today is the day that God is calling you to come home.