



## WOW: Word Of the Week

### Together

September 21, 2022

Pay close attention. The power of “together” is often lost in the modern church. During the pandemic, we learned to assemble without assembling; to be together without being together. “Together” is an important part of shared lives in Christ; face-to-face meetings.

One of my favorite texts as I come to the Sunday Supper is Luke 22. **Jesus said to them, “With great desire, I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.”** Before Jesus’ suffering, he desired to spend time with his small group. We are spiritually wired for life together. In the Supper, our hearts beat in unity. I am reminded of thousands who share the Supper each Sunday. I travel, the Supper is an always—connecting, reconnecting, a reminder of a “one another” community.

Why did not the writer of Hebrews mention the power of the Supper for calling people together in Jesus? Where is the Supper in the book of Hebrews? Perhaps in 10:19-24. **Therefore, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let 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. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.**

Face to face with God. Face to face with one another. Confidence, access, drawing near, true hearts, full assurance of faith, cleansed and purified, holding fast to God’s faithfulness, so we stimulate and encourage one another to love and good works.

Perhaps the writer’s call to communion. In the Supper, we together enter God’s presence, the Holy of Holies, by the blood of Jesus, he opens the way—new and fresh and living, our high priest who brings us into God’s presence. Yes, God comes to be present among us; but perhaps more important, we together go into God’s presence. Faithful God! No wavering, so we have solid, firm faith—together!

**But, brothers and sisters, when we were orphaned by being separated from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. (1 Thess. 2:17)**

Together! Why? Because of the burden of love, Paul longed to be present in person, genuine affection shared through face-to-face gathering. Paul to the Corinthians: I will give other directions when I come (1 Cor. 11:34). John in two short letters: there are things I cannot say in writing, I will come to you soon (2 John 12; 3 John 13).

Here is power in our Christian lives. Together. How do you know that you are essential and longed for? In regular worship. In the weekly Supper. In time shared, in weekly connect groups, in our shared lives.

Tell at least one other person how much they matter, how much they are longed for, this week!