

INTRO

- Do you have thanksgiving weekend plans?

READ

Heb 10:19-25

REFLECT & RESPOND

In this series, we have tried to focus on the essential practices we need in order to be a Persevering People: Draw Near — Communion, Hold Fast — Confession, Consider Others — Community.

In closing, we look at the 4th practice:

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

STIR UP

To stir up means to provoke/incite one another towards a certain direction or action. For most, the thought of provoking one another is not a pleasant one or even a Christian one!

Qu: when you think of healthy church community, do you think of it also as a place to both be provoked and provoke others? Are you comfortable with this? Why/why not?

We don't provoke one another just for the sake of it. We do it from a place of love for one another towards love and good works.

LOVE & GOOD WORKS

Love is arguably the defining virtue and posture that should characterize us as Christians. Jesus summed it up well in Mt 22:37-40 that we are to love God and others. Jesus also said our greatest witness to the world would be in how we love one another (Jn 13:35).

Qu: In light of Jesus words, what comes to mind practically when you think about being stirred up to love?

Good works are simply God's love in action for the benefit of others. Eph 2:10 encourages us

that God has good works in mind for each one of us.

Jesus modelled this so well: wherever he went, he saw the needs of people, had compassion on them, and was moved to do something in response. This pattern plays out over and over.

Here is a simple framework to adopt to be more open to the opportunities to practice love and good works before you in your everyday life:

- **Where do you GO?**
(live, work/study, play, church)
- **What do you SEE?**
(needs, injustice, opportunity)
- **What do you FEEL?**
(What moves you with compassion)
- **How can you PRAY?**
(How might God be leading you to respond?)
- **What can you DO?**
(gifting, skills, experience, resources)

GO—SEE—FEEL—PRAY—DO

There are endless ways we can put love into action and practice good works.

Qu: Is there an example you can share where you've seen this played out in your life? Is there a specific need/person God is prompting you to respond to this week? (Pray for that)

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray to be more aware and available to the opportunities to practice love and good works this coming week.
- Pray for one another to be stirred up in love for God, church community, and your world.