

The Value of Community Life

- A. Introduction to Hebrews 6:9-12
- B. Biblical Background: Hebrews 5:11-6:8
- C. Hebrews 6:9-12 (re-read), verse-by-verse

⁹ Dear friends, even though we are talking this way, we really don't believe it applies to you. We are confident that you are meant for better things, things that come with salvation. (Phil 1:3-6)

¹⁰ For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers,^[a] as you still do. (1 John 2:9-11, 3:10, 3:15-24, Galatians 6:2).

¹¹ Our great desire is that you will keep on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true.

¹² Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance.

D. Disillusionment:

"Innumerable times a whole Christian community has broken down because it had sprung from a wish dream. The serious Christian, set down for the first time in a Christian community, is likely to bring with him a very definite idea of what Christian life together should be and to try to realize it. But God's grace speedily shatters such dreams. Just as surely as God desires to lead us to a knowledge of genuine Christian fellowship, so surely must we be overwhelmed by a great disillusionment with others, with Christians in general, and, if we are fortunate, with ourselves...Only that fellowship which faces such disillusionment, with all its unhappy and ugly aspects, begins to be what it should be in God's sight, begins to grasp in faith the promise that is given to it. The sooner this shock of disillusionment comes to an individual and to a community the better for both. A community which cannot bear and cannot survive such a crisis, which insists upon keeping its illusion when it should be shattered, permanently loses in that moment the promise of Christian community...Thus the very hour of disillusionment with my brother becomes incomparably salutary (*beneficial*), because it so thoroughly teaches me that neither of us can ever live by our own words and deeds, but only by that one Word and Deed which really binds us together—the forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ. When the morning mists of dreams vanish, then dawns the bright day of Christian fellowship." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community*)

(Luke 8:14, 1 Cor. 13: 4-7, Matt. 20:20-24, 16:23, 26:34, 17:1-5)

- E. Hope (1 Peter 1:12-18, Phil 2:1-2)