

Hebrews 10:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Analysis

This verse commands active stimulation of fellow believers toward spiritual maturity. 'And let us consider one another' (καὶ κατανοῶμεν ἀλλήλους, kai katanoōmen allēlous) uses κατανοέω (katanoeō), meaning to observe carefully, study attentively, consider thoroughly. The present subjunctive emphasizes ongoing, deliberate attention to others' spiritual condition. This isn't casual observation but intentional focus on fellow believers' needs and growth. The purpose follows: 'to provoke unto love and to good works' (εἰς παροξυσμὸν ἀγάπης καὶ καλῶν ἔργων, eis paroxysmon agapēs kai kalōn ergōn). Παροξυσμός (paroxysmos) usually has negative connotations (sharp disagreement, provocation, irritation—used in Acts 15:39 for Paul and Barnabas's split), but here it's redirected positively: sharp stimulation, incitement, stirring up toward love and good works. The image is vigorous encouragement, not passive coexistence. Christians are called to actively spur one another toward Christlikeness through exhortation, example, accountability, and encouragement. This isn't mere human effort but Spirit-enabled community functioning as God's means of sanctification.

Historical Context

The author addresses Hebrew Christians tempted to abandon Christianity for Judaism (c. AD 60s, before temple destruction). Persecution and cultural pressure made apostasy attractive. The command to 'consider one another' emphasizes corporate responsibility—believers aren't isolated individuals but covenant community members mutually responsible for each other's perseverance. In Jewish

synagogue life, mutual accountability and community discipline were normal. The author applies this to Christian assembly (v. 25), where believers stimulate each other toward faithfulness. The phrase 'good works' (καλῶν ἔργων) echoes Jewish emphasis on righteous deeds, but grounds them in grace-produced transformation, not law-keeping. Early Christian communities practiced intense mutual care: economic sharing (Acts 2:44-45, 4:32-35), frequent gatherings (Acts 2:46), mutual exhortation (Hebrews 3:13), and accountability. This verse shaped Reformed emphasis on church discipline and one-another commands as means of grace.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Who in your Christian community needs your active encouragement and accountability toward love and good works?
2. How can you move from passive church attendance to active stimulation of fellow believers' spiritual growth?
3. What 'good works' is God calling you to both practice and encourage in others?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	κατανοῶμεν	ἀλλήλους	εἰς	παροξυσμὸν	ἀγάπης	καὶ
And	let us consider	one another	to	provoke	unto love	And
G2532	G2657	G240	G1519	G3948	G26	G2532
καλῶν	ἔργων					
to good	works					
G2570	G2041					

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (Parallel theme): Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Hebrews 13:1 (Love): Let brotherly love continue.

1 John 3:18 (Love): My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Galatians 5:13 (Love): For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Colossians 3:16 (Parallel theme): Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Titus 3:8 (Good): This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

1 Timothy 6:18 (Good): That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

Hebrews 13:3 (Parallel theme): Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

Galatians 6:1 (Parallel theme): Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Acts 11:29 (Parallel theme): Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea:

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