

# One Another's- Provoke me, please.

## Sermon Notes

March 23, 2025

Read **Hebrews 10:19-27**

*A strong pastoral charge given to people on journey in following Jesus. The journey is challenging, but this text paints a picture how our faith can thrive.*

**Verse 19:** God invites us to approach Him confidently because Jesus' blood has provided the entrance into that relationship.

**Verses 20-21:** The curtain that separated us from God's presence has been replaced by the new curtain—Jesus' body. He is now our priest presiding over this relationship with God.

**Verses 22-23:** It is safe to draw near to God, because Jesus is faithful. What hope this provides!

**Verses 24-25:** We need the help of each other to be reminded of this hope and to live in it. Without each other we are left to our own wandering that becomes a cemented path away from the hope that Jesus provides.

**Verses 26-27:** The deliberate pursuit of sin sets you up as an enemy of God, and a horrific eternal judgment comes to such people.

**We are called to consider how we can help each other continue walking with Jesus.**

*"And let us consider how..."*

Seeking understanding of how we can truly help each other.

Consideration of how we can inspire someone towards Jesus is a process we should walk in each of our relationships.

**That consideration could require provocative engagement.**

*"...spur one another on toward..."*

*Spur*- to provoke, incite, excite, or arouse

We are called to provoke one another!

To provoke is to create a quick change of direction. ***“Don’t provoke me!”***

*What is that one thing that will instantly set you off? It may provoke you to change in an instant?*

I definitely don’t want to give my list, because that is way too many people hearing it and then odds of it being used against me is quite significant. I grew up loving to touch people’s buttons: speaking against their team, stating a G.O.A.T. that knowingly is arguable, saying to someone “you can’t do it.”

Speaking politics for the sake of irritation to get someone wound up.

*What would it look like to provoke someone because the aim is for their benefit?*

When in a whining moment of casting blame, someone agreeing with me how at fault someone else is and praising me for how good and flawless I am.

[Ugh!]

Someone masterfully speaking into you when you are coasting and could do better.

Someone highlighting how immersed I am at serving myself and not considering the benefit of others.

*What if it is to help them walk a more exciting walk with Jesus?*

## **Permissible reasons to provoke another.**

Confronting a pattern of sin.

**James 5:19-20** *My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, <sup>20</sup>remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.”*

Choosing something better. **[Mary, Martha]**

Adding wind to the sails. **Luke 16:10a** *“Whoever can be [faithful] with little can be trusted with much...”*

## **Consider before you provoke.**

1. What is your motive?
  - Pray about this!
  - Is it out of judgment or superiority? [*The plank in your eye*]
  - Do you feel defensive or any sense of reactionary emotions?
  - Is it out of love you feel compelled to provoke them?
  - What direction are you offering? [*Love and good deeds?*]
2. How do you do it?
  - What spirit do you desire to bring to the moment? Pray for this.
  - Be intentional about the moment—face to face is always best to keep the motive of love evident.
3. When should you do it?
  - Once your motive is abundantly leading the way.
  - Once you have clarity on where you are aiming them.
  - Once you are ready to go along with them in the journey if they welcome it.
4. Pray for their heart to be receptive and willing to go with you!

## **Failure to prepare your heart for provoking another can lead to destructive consequences.**

Wrong direction given.

Cement the wrong direction.

Protecting yourself over serving them.

You miss out on experiencing God's leading of your heart.

**Provoking each other towards love and good works is helping each other live for Jesus.**

**Hebrews 12:1b-2a** *“...And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith...”*

So, I say “excite me, incite me, spur me, provoke me to follow Jesus!”

## **Prayer**

*Lord, have I been withholding love from someone by failing to speak truth to them?*

*Lord, have I been unapproachable or defensive when people try to speak into me?*

**Benediction:** Jesus restoring Peter 3x, and he indeed will go to the death for Jesus.