

Better Hebrews 13:1-6

Intro

Transition

Sticky Statement: We are to honor God by how we love Him and others.

Passage

1 Let brotherly love continue. 2 Don't neglect to show hospitality, for by doing this some have welcomed angels as guests without knowing it. 3 Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily.

Hebrews 13:1-3

The first verse helps us to see the type of love believers should have for each other.

The love between Christians is to familial.

When we are rescued by Christ we are united with others by the bond of redemption.

No matter where we travel in the world, when we meet another believer we are united with them through Christ.

We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

This does not mean we overlook sin but rather we are able to encourage each other to overcome temptation.

We love through the faults, encourage in the struggles, and join in celebration for the joyous moments.

The word "continue" implies that the Hebrews our author is writing to were doing well with this love.

He encourages them to continue growing in that area.

Verse 2 opens up this idea of brotherly love not to just other believers.

We are to love all we come into contact with in order to show Christ.

What is hospitality?

Hospitality is the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers.

We are to honor God by how we love others.

We serve not because of how it makes us feel but because it might gain us the opportunity to share Jesus.

We serve not for self gratification we serve because of our love for Christ and others.

We serve so that Christ might glorified through us.

We never know when we might be serving a heavenly being.

We should serve no matter what we feel their circumstance might be.

We should not worry about what they might do with the money and be worried about how we can welcome them.

We should welcome strangers as though we are welcoming Christ, with joy and service.

We are to go to those that are prisoners.

Yes they are there living with the consequences of their actions.

However, they still need Jesus.

We are to show offer them the words of Christ in hopes they might be redeemed.

Another thing to remember here is the context of the Church at the time Hebrews was written.

Followers were being arrested because of their faith in Christ.

The author is encouraging his audience to remember other believers that are suffering for Christ.

We are to react with love and compassion towards the prisoner.

We are to think of how we would want people to react if we were in prison.

We are to honor God by how we love others.

Pick up in verse 4:

4 Marriage is to be honored by all and the marriage bed kept undefiled, because God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers.

Hebrews 13:4

There is a movement today to remove marriage, some say it is outdated.

The writer would disagree with that mindset.

Christians should value marriage.

It is a step of commitment to each other that is intended to model Christ's relationship with His church.

Paul writes about this in Ephesians 5:22-33.

We are not going to read it today, so I will summarize it for you.

Wives you are to submit to your husbands as the spiritual leader of your home.

This is not the do as I say woman that many like to twist into being.

This is made clear as you read the rest of the passage.

Husbands you are to love your wife as you love yourself.

You are also to love your wife like Christ loved the church and died for the church.

So husbands you are to be willing to sacrifice everything for you wife as a result wives are to follow the leadership of their husband.

They can do this because they know their husbands loves them second only to God and will sacrifice whatever is necessary for Her.

Husbands when you love your wife this way it is easier for her to follow your Godly leadership.

Paul closes out this passage telling us that marriage between husband and wife is a model of the church's relationship with Christ.

Notice I just said model, not a perfect example.

Christ died for our sin and as a result of His loving sacrifice we follow His leadership.

Because of His great love for us we can trust that He will lead us perfectly.

The author also address the marriage bed.

What follows is a hot take in our current culture but has been the stance of Scripture since the days of Moses.

Sex is intended to be between a husband and wife only.

It is a seal on the covenant of marriage.

It is not intended to be enjoyed outside of the covenant of marriage.

The marriage bed is not to be an open door for others to be invited to join.

It is the literally joining of two people into one flesh (Eph 5:31 and Gen. 2:24)

It is an intimate act designed by God as a beautiful thing for those that have been joined together through the covenant marriage.

See Proverbs 5:15-19, 1 Corinthians 7:2-5, Hebrews 13:4 to name a few.

We are to honor God by how we love others, in marriage.

5 Keep your life free from the love of money. Be satisfied with what you have, for he himself has said, **I will never leave you or abandon you.** 6 Therefore, we may boldly say, **The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?**

Hebrews 13:5-6

It does not say money is bad but that we should not have a love for it.

Money is to be looked at as a means to an end not the end itself.

When we develop of love for money we can never have enough of it and enough of what we think it provides.

In the case of our passage it is looking at the idea of money providing safety and security.

The author reminds us we should be satisfied with what we have been given.

The the author quotes the Old Testament, which seems strange when you first read it.

The end of verse 5 is from Deuteronomy 31:6

The last part of verse 6 is from Psalms 118:6

The author is using the words of our God to remind us we should find satisfaction in Him and Him alone.

Nothing on this earth can truly satisfy the longing of our hearts.

If we find our worth, hope, joy, and faith in God then what can anyone to do harm us?

When we trust God our fear in things of this world begins to fade.

Christ says this in Matthew 10:28:

28 Don't fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Matthew 10:28

When we are in the hands of God what can man do, nothing eternal.

Yes, man can cause physical, emotional, and mental damage but all that is temporary pain.

Pain that, with work and time, can heal.

However, the judgment that God brings at the end of our time on this earth last for eternity.

If we have not been forgiven we will find ourselves in world filled with pain for eternity.

We are to honor God by how we love Him.

Application

We are called to serve others in life, in prisons, in our marriage.

We are called to find satisfaction in Christ and in Christ alone.

Money and all it affords us will one day pass away but God is eternal.

Love others over money, find security in God, and Honor Him in all you do.

We are to honor God by how we love Him and others.

Challenge

Who does your life honor yourself or God?

Commentaries Used in Preparation

Christ Center Exposition: Exalting Christ in Hebrews

The Gospel Coalition Commentary on Hebrew by Dennis Johnson