

“HEBREWS”

Session #32—Hebrews 13:1-6

I have a drawer in my office. I affectionately call it my “Blessing Drawer.” It contains letters, cards, and copies of emails that have encouraged me and reminded me of the many ways the Lord has worked in people’s lives.

In some ways the ending of Hebrews is similar to the ending of Romans. It’s difficult to overestimate Roman’s doctrinal impact as well as the practical application of those majestic truths in the lives of believers. Its ending, particularly chapter 16, demonstrates that Paul wrote this letter to actual people in real circumstances.

In Hebrews 12, the author explained what it means to be citizens of a heavenly kingdom, a kingdom that cannot be shaken. He closed the chapter by writing...

Hebrews 12:28–29... Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; 29 for our God is a consuming fire.

In this last chapter the author tells us how to do this very thing.¹ He loaded this last chapter with short, staccato-like instructions designed to encourage believers who were paying a hefty price for believing in the Lord Jesus. **READ TEXT.**

Hebrews 13:1... Let love of the brethren continue.

The word for love here is *philadelphia*. It referred to the natural attachment to one’s blood relatives – it was a kindred love. Think of it, blood brothers and sisters may not always get along, but they do love each other.

When the word was brought into the Christian faith, it was used to speak of the attachment we have as a spiritual family. As Christians, these Hebrew people no doubt had been rejected by their friends and families.

¹ R. Albert Mohler Jr., [*Exalting Jesus in Hebrews*](#) (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2017), 219.

But the deepest kind of fellowship is not based on race or family relationship; it is based on the spiritual life we have in Christ. A church fellowship based on anything other than love for Christ and for one another simply will not last. ²

Do you see? Over and over in Scripture the mark of the Christian is our love for one another.

John 13:34–35... “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

1 Thessalonians 4:9... Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for *anyone* to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.

1 Peter 1:22... Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart.

1 John 3:11... For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

To these Jewish believers who were going through what may have been the most difficult time in their lives, that author of this Spirit-inspired letter exhorted them to continue to love each other!

Lee Iacocca once asked legendary football coach Vince Lombardi what it took to make a winning team. The book Iacocca records Lombardi's answer...

"There are a lot of coaches with good ball clubs who know the fundamentals and have plenty of discipline but still don't win the game. Then you come to the third ingredient: if you're going to play together as a team, you've got to care for one another. You've got to love each other. Each player has to be thinking about the next guy and saying to himself:

² Warren W. Wiersbe, [*The Bible Exposition Commentary*](#), vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 326.

'If I don't block that man, Paul is going to get his legs broken. I have to do my job well in order that he can do his.'

"The difference between mediocrity and greatness," Lombardi said that night, "is the feeling these guys have for each other." In the healthy church, each Christian learns to care for others. As we take seriously Jesus' command to "love one another," we contribute to a winning team. Christopher Stinnett, Walled Lake, Michigan. Leadership, Vol. 15, no. 3.

I think verse 1 is connected to verses 2 and 3. In these verses the author spells out some specifics about this love that should flow out of our hearts.

Hebrews 13:2... Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Where there is true Christian love, there will also be *hospitality* (Heb. 13:2). This was an important ministry in the early church because persecution drove many believers away from their homes. Also, there were traveling ministers who needed places to stay. All saints should be “given to hospitality.”³

Romans 12:9–13... Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, 13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

1 Peter 4:9... Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

3 John 5–8... Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially when they are strangers; 6 and they have testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. 7 For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. 8 Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the truth.

Is he saying we should show hospitality to *everyone* including believers and unbelievers? Given the context, I think it's safe to say that he's talking about

³ Warren W. Wiersbe, [*The Bible Exposition Commentary*](#), vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 326.

hospitality to Christian strangers. You see, at this time inns were notoriously unsafe. So, traveling believers needed safe places to stay. Believers were to show them hospitality. Bring them in and care for them. This was another way to show Christian love. **Some without knowing it cared for angels. Think of Abraham (Genesis 18:1-8).**

Hebrews 13:3... Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.

What an amazing verse. The whole context here seems to point to Christian relationships and Christian love.

Remember the prisoners. That is, those who are prisoners because of their faith in Christ. Prisoners in the first century were dependent on care from the outside. This included food and water. To care for prisoners also involved identifying with them. As Christians, you did so then at great personal risk. But you did it because they were a part of the family of God.

Hebrews 10:32–34... But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, 33 partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. 34 For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one.

Christian love is not optional for those who profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Hebrews 13:4... Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

In a society when marriage was often a mere convenience for procreation and adultery/fornication was common, the author says, honor marriage. Hold it in high value. This certainly applies to today. As marriage is being redefined or discarded altogether, we are to honor marriage. How do we do that?

- **Love your spouse.**
- **Keep your vows.**
- **Teach a high view of marriage to your kids and grandkids.**

Sexual intimacy is reserved for marriage. That's true if you're 16 years old or if you're 65 years old or older! Do you realize that those who practice sexual immorality will not go to heaven?

1 Corinthians 6:9–11... Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, **10** nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. **11** Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

Let me say it loud and clear. **HONOR MARRIAGE!**

Hebrews 13:5-6... *Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"* **6** so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?"

These verses go together. Make sure that your character is free from the love of money. Don't love money.

1 Timothy 6:6–10... But godliness *actually* is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. **7** For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. **8** If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. **9** But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. **10** For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

God will take care of our needs. He will always be there for us no matter what we go through!

Look at verse 6. That's a quote of Psalm 118:6. He uses it to encourage us. Whatever we have, or don't have; whatever we're facing **He is our Helper.** You can trust the Lord, your God!