

I. Introduction and review: More than ethics!

II. Love the brethren. v. 1

A. Keep on continuing to love one another.

1. It may be that just as the Hebrews were losing heart in other areas, they were becoming weary in love. 10:25
2. While it is true that we should love everyone, we have a particular duty to love our fellow saints. Gal. 6:10 John 13:35 Mt. 5:44
3. Love all of the brethren.
4. Christianity removes all prejudice. Eph. 2:14ff Gal. 3:27-29
5. Do you have to learn to love yourself before you can love others? Mt. 22:39 II Tim. 3:2 Eph. 5:28ff

B. What kind of love does God expect us to show towards one another?

1. Biblical love is very different from shallow and fickle worldly sentiment.
2. Our love for one another is grounded in Christ's love for us. I Jo. 3:16 4:9-11,19
3. The love of Christ is also the example which we follow. John 13:13-15,34 15:12

C. How do we demonstrate Christlike love? I Co. 13:4-7

1. Love each other graciously. Ro. 5:7-10 12:20 Col. 1:21 Mt. 5:43-44 I Pe. 4:8
2. Love each other sacrificially. Phil. 2:3-8 Eph. 5:25ff I Jo. 4:10 John 15:13
 - a. Selfless. Phil. 2:3-8 Mt. 7:12 II Co. 8:1-5 12:15 Acts 2:45 4:34 Ro. 15:25ff
3. Love each other intelligently and purposefully. Rom. 12:6ff
4. Love each other with genuine affection. Rom. 12:10,15 II Co. 12:15

III. Show love by being hospitable. v. 2

A. What kind of hospitality is being encouraged?

1. Not merely having your friends and family over for dinner. Mt. 5:46ff Lu. 14:12ff
2. Hospitality is literally showing love to strangers. 3 John 1:5-6
3. Why was this needed in the early church? 10:32-34 I Pe. 4:9 Rom. 12:13 16:1-2,5 Acts 21:16 16:15 18:1-2 Phm. 1:22,2 I Co. 16:10ff
4. Being hospitable is a qualification for leadership in the church. I Tim. 3:2 5:10

B. Are we to expect angels on our doorstep?

1. Abraham and others in the Old Testament welcomed angels without realizing it. Genesis 18:1-8 19:1ff Judges 13,6
2. Our author is not necessarily saying that we should expect literal angels.
3. Rather we are to imitate Abraham's example as a model host.
4. There is a sense that when we show kindness to strangers, we are caring for the Lord Himself. Mt. 25:34-35
5. We may also experience unexpected blessings.

C. How can we show such hospitality?

1. Give a very warm welcome to those who visit our church.
2. Be willing to open your home to brothers and sisters who need a place to stay. Acts 21:16 28:7 Rom. 16:1f
3. Be sensitive to those in the church who would especially benefit from hospitality.
4. Give of your best to your guests. Phm. 1:7
5. Loving others through hospitality can be costly and risky.

- D. Beware of sins which can spoil your attempts at hospitality.
 - 1. Don't grumble or complain. I Pe. 4:9
 - 2. Don't allow your pride or perfectionism limit your hospitality.
 - 3. Don't let fear stop you from caring for strangers.
 - 4. Beware of mixed motives. Rom. 12:9

- E. Is there a theological/christological foundation for hospitality?
 - 1. We, who were strangers and aliens, have been brought near by Christ's blood.
Eph. 2:12,19 I Pe. 2:10
 - 2. We still live as strangers in this world as we await our heavenly homeland. 11:13
I Pe. 1:1 2:11

IV. Express love by sympathetically share in the sufferings of others. v. 3

- A. Some pay a steep price for their devotion to Christ.
 - 1. Many in the early church were imprisoned for their faith. 10:34a 13:23 Eph. 3:1
 - 2. Others suffered in different ways. 10:34b 11:37ff Acts 7:58 16:22ff II Co. 11:23ff
 - 3. How do people suffer today?

- B. We are called to enter into their sufferings. I Co. 12:26 Ro. 12:15 Gal. 6:2
 - 1. We should have a deliberate sense of being bound and being ill-treated with them.
 - 2. Believers in the early church did extraordinary things for their brethren. 6:10
10:34 II Tim. 1:16 4:9-13,21 Acts 28:30 24:23 27:3 Phil. 4:12ff 2:25-30
 - 3. Do what you can to relieve their sufferings. 13:18-19 Col. 4:18 Acts 12:5
 - 4. Who is suffering among us?

- C. Caring for those who suffer is important to our Lord Jesus.
 - 1. Jesus willingly entered into our misery. 2:17-18 4:15
 - 2. He said that what we do for our suffering brothers is done for Him. Mt. 25:36-40

V. Concluding applications. Ps. 133:1

Discussion questions

1. How is Hebrews 13 different from the rest of Hebrews?
2. How is Christian love different from the love promoted by other religions?
3. What is the source of our love for one another?
4. How in particular should we express our love?
5. What is hospitality?
6. Why is hospitality important?
7. Should we expect to entertain angels?
8. How should hospitality be practiced?
9. How did the early church remember the prisoners?
10. How can we apply this admonition in our day?