



Persisting Love as Believer Priests

Lesson Sixty-Two • Hebrews 13:15-18a

23 Commands in Hebrews 13 for Persisting Love to Move Forward to Our Final Salvation!*						
PERSISTING LOVE for One Another! (vv. 1-6)	PERSISTING LOVE with Church Leaders! (vv. 7, cf. 17, 24)	PERSISTING LOVE by the Changeless Christ! (v. 8)	PERSISTING LOVE in Bearing Reproach! (vv. 9-14)	PERSISTING LOVE as Believer Priests! (vv. 15-17, 18a)	PERSISTING LOVE from the Great Shepherd! (vv. 20-21)	PERSISTING LOVE to Keep Moving Forward! (vv. 18-19, 22-25)
8 Commands in 4 Pairs Y'all persist in brotherly love and avoid the pitfalls (sexual immorality & material idolatry) with godly motivation!	9 Commands 2 + 0 + 2 + 5 Let us keep going outside the camp to bear Jesus' reproach as believer priests by imitating past leaders who finished well (v. 7) and obeying present leaders who teach and lead well (v. 17) according to the sound doctrine about the changeless Christ! Rather than being carried away by strange doctrines, continually offer up the spiritual sacrifices that please God: <i>Gratefully confess His name in word and deed!</i>				NO COMMANDS! Only God's gracious blessing through JESUS our Lord, the risen Great Shepherd, will equip us to will and to work what is pleasing to God!	6 Various Commands Keep moving forward with conviction in community by God's ordinary means of grace until we enter God's final rest!

*15 explicit commands plus 8 implicit ones due to grammatical structure.

Now that the OT Levitical priesthood, animal sacrifices, and earthly tabernacle have been set aside as obsolete and now that Jesus Christ has fulfilled what they pictured by His blood as our eternal High Priest-King seated in heaven, when we as NT believers go "outside the camp" to identify with Him...

How do we worship as we keep moving forward toward our final salvation to seek the City to come?

If all believers (male & female) have priestly privileges in Christ under the New Covenant to enter the Holy of holies in heaven, what kind of sacrifices do we offer up to God here on earth?

Does this "priesthood of believers" cancel the need for qualified male pastors to teach and lead in the local church?

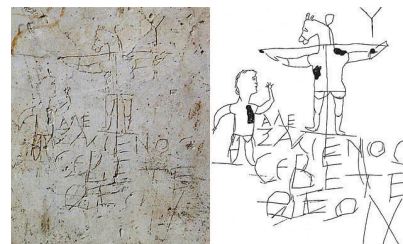
Hebrews 13:15-18a

Believer priests show persisting love by continually offering up **SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES** that are pleasing to God as they move forward in community (gathering and scattering) to their final salvation and the coming Kingdom!

Believer Priests Are Biblically Boring:

With Persisting Love, They Continually Offer Up the Same Spiritual Sacrifices that Are Pleasing to God [While They Embrace His Disgrace Outside the Camp]!

"Alexamenos worships his god."



History mocks what heaven honors!

1. Continually Offer Up Sacrifices of **PRAISE** to God.

"Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name." (v. 15)

What Are New Testament Sacrifices?

1. Through Jesus.

2. Continually offer up a sacrifice of praise.

Old Testament Background: Leviticus 7:11-17; Psalm 50:12-15

3. That is the, the fruit of lips.

Old Testament Background: Hosea 14:1-2; Isaiah 57:19; 6:7; 51:16; 59:20-21

1 Peter 2:4-10

4. *That give thanks to His name.*

Words that Are Blood-Bought, God-Wrought, and Spirit-Brought from Converted Hearts Once for All Forgiven

- Continual personal and public **PRAISE** – *through the one another's of singing, testifying, exhorting, comforting, and praying.* (Acts 2:1-47; Ephesians 5:18-21; Colossians 3:16-17)
- Continual personal and public **PROFESSION** – *confessing our faith in the faith with praise and even under pressure.*

NIV “a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess His name.”

- Continual personal and public **PROCLAMATION** – *to one another when gathered, to others when scattered, and to our opponents when persecuted.*

2. Continually Offer Up Sacrifices of PROVISION for Others in Need.

“And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” (v. 16)

CONCRETE caring and **SACRIFICIAL** sharing with those in need!

*“Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this:
to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.” James 1:27*

➤ To **WHOM** are we to do good and share generously? *Galatians 6:10* (the principle); *1 Timothy 5:8* (the pattern)

➤ Don't **NEGLECT** doing this! *Hebrews 10:32-39*

6:10 For God is **NOT UNJUST so as to FORGET** (neglect/overlook) **your work and the love which you have shown toward His NAME, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.**

13:2 **DO NOT NEGLECT** to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

13:16 And **DO NOT NEGLECT** doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is **PLEASED.** (cf. 11:6)

3. Continually Offer Up Sacrifices of PARTNERSHIP with Our Pastors.

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.” (v. 17)

Even though Jesus is our eternal High Priest in heaven and we are His priesthood of believers on earth, God has still **APPOINTED** qualified men to be pastors-teachers over His flock in the local church.

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ,” Ephesians 4:11-12

4. Continually Offer Up Sacrifices of PRAYER for One Another.

“Pray for us...” (vv. 18a)

Hebrews 7:24-25

“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; for our God is a consuming fire.” Hebrews 12:28-29

Are You a Part of the Priesthood of Believers in Jesus? Are You Biblically Boring as a Believer Priest?

Keep Moving Forward in Community with Persisting Love by Offering Up the Spiritual Sacrifices that Please God!

“Through [JESUS] then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” Hebrews 13:15-16