

“The Sufferings of God’s People”

Hebrews 13:1-3

New Hope Community Church

November 12th, 2017

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe persecution?
2. What examples of persecution can you think of in the New Testament? What affect did it have on the church?
3. In Heb 11:3, it seems clear that God wants us to remember those being persecuted since we ourselves are in the body. What exactly do you think is meant by this statement?
4. Why do you think Christians remain in dangerous countries?
5. Share any ways in which you have been persecuted for being a Christ follower.
6. How did you respond to persecution?
7. Do we really know how to effectively pray for the persecuted church? What are some specific things to ask on their behalf?
 - (1) _____
 - (2) _____
 - (3) _____
 - (4) _____
 - (5) _____

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Is it important that we actively remember the persecuted church?

- A. Responsibility Arises From the Supreme Command: Love (1)**
 1. Love is the identifying mark of the **disciple** of Jesus
 2. The love commanded here is **philadelphia**, used six times in the New Testament to speak of a brotherly **kindness** that we are to show one another
 3. This kind of love is an **abiding** love that transcends obstacles
- B. Potential Benefits of Expressed Love Are Often Unknown (2)**
 1. We are tempted to reserve acts of kindness to those we **know**
 - Perhaps so we can measure **worthiness** of the recipient
 - Perhaps because we don’t really believe our kindness will make a **difference**
 2. Kindness to the stranger is marked by an **open** heart
 - The word used is very instructive —
‘philos’ = **friend** / ‘zenia’ = **stranger**
The compound word together implies **hospitality**
 - Kindness to the stranger is **pleasing** to God
- C. God Commands Remembrance of those Mistreated (3)**
 1. The word used for ‘remember’ means to **actively** remember
 - It requires that we are **intentional** about it
 - It suggests that we **identify** with them
 - It reminds us that we are **united** as one people in Christ
 2. Remembering ‘as suffering with them’ will **instruct** our faith!
 - What is it about the persecuted church that would cause them to risk everything in order to follow Jesus?

 - What would I risk?

 - In thinking of Hea Woo, how does my life line up with the statement: “Jesus gives you everything but calls you to nothing”?

Response

- 1) **Pray** “Our prayers can go where we cannot... there are no borders, no prison walls, no doors that are closed to us when we pray.” B Andrew
- 2) **Engage** (be informed)
- 3) **Partner** www.opendoorsusa.org