



Closing Commands

11.17.19 | Hebrews 13

True love is love based on truth. While emotions are a bonus, they are not the basis of love. Feelings that accompany love are great but are not the foundation. Love desires the very best for another person, and the very best for a person is a personal and vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ. Why is one's relationship with Jesus so important?

1. Christ claimed that we "live forever." That claim is either true or false.
2. Jesus is worthy of our complete adoration and allegiance.

Hebrews 13:1-6 *Let brotherly love continue. ² Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. ³ Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also. Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. ⁵ Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁶ So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"*

The Hebrew congregation was to hold their marriage in high esteem, countering the abuse of God's plan that the culture practiced. God judges sexual sins. However, at times, it seems like God ignores such behavior. Individuals and corporations continue to profit from sexual sins legally and illegally. Is God ignoring the issue? **Let's not confuse delayed judgment with denied judgment.**

Love does not wish judgment; it desires repentance. It longs for all people to fall in love with Jesus. However, love does speak truth, and it warns of God's forthcoming judgment on rebellion.

Hebrews 13:7-9 *Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. ⁹ Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.*

Hebrews 13:10-13 ¹⁰ *We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. ¹¹ For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. ¹³ Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. (Let's identify with Christ!)*

The more heartache you experience, the more challenges you face, the more injustice you are dealt, the more difficulties you encounter, the more you can identify with the type of life Jesus lived. In light of this, the book of Hebrews can connect and resonate with us.

“The emphasis in this section is on separation from dead religion and identification with the Lord Jesus Christ in His reproach. The image comes from the Day of Atonement. The sin offering was taken outside the camp and burned completely (Lev. 16:27). Jesus Christ, our perfect sin offering, suffered and died “outside the gate” of Jerusalem. All true Christians must go out to Him, spiritually speaking, to the place of reproach and rejection.” Warren Wiersbe

Hebrews 13:15-16 *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. ¹⁶ But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*

The words of praise from our lips, coming from our hearts, is like beautiful fruit laid on the altar. How easy it is for suffering saints to complain, but how important it is for them to give thanks to God. A grateful heart has a generous hand.

Hebrews 13:17 *Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*

- A pastor’s authority is *not* unquestioned authority. Pastors are to lead with Biblical principles, and members are to support that type of leadership.
- Scripture is our final authority, not man.
- Christ receives our ultimate submission, not man.
- A pastor’s task is soul care; their work is eternal.
- A pastor is to tell you what you need to hear and not what you want to hear.
- Pastors will give an account of how they lead God’s church.
- Pastors need your encouragement. When you discourage them, you and the entire congregation suffer from it.

Hebrews 13:20-21 *Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, ²¹ make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

In Hebrews 13, the writer addressed a believer’s relationship with...

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| 1. Other believers | v1 |
| 2. Strangers | v2 |
| 3. Prisoners | v3 |
| 4. A spouse | v4 |
| 5. Money | v5 |
| 6. Church leaders | v7, 17 |
| 7. Christ | v5-6, 8-14 |
| 8. God | v15-21 |

God gives us desires as a gift. However, these desires are distorted because of the fall. There is within each of us a desire that nothing on this earth can satisfy. The only explanation for this desire is that we were made for a something greater outside this present life.