

CONCLUDING APPLICATIONS (PT 1)

Hebrews 13:1-6

Intro: If God is Holy, You Be Holy!

I. Look out for Others (v.1-3)

A. The Call to Brotherly Love (v.1)

- o Loving one another is the defining mark of Christians: “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” John 13:35
- o “brotherly love” = φιλαδελφία NIV: “Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters”
- o Spiritual brotherhood can be more powerful than physical (Gal 3:29; Matt 12:48-49)

B. Examples of Brotherly Love (v.2-3)

- o Hospitality
 - Importance of Hospitality
- o Hospitality is a key Christian virtue: (Rom 12:13; 1 Pet 4:9; 1 Tim 3:2)
- o It was necessary because Christian missionaries travelled extensively
 - Definition of Hospitality
- o How is hospitality different than “entertaining”?
- o Focus on “strangers” shows that true hospitality is not about us!
 - Motive for Hospitality
- o You never know the impact of your help!
- o Even angels have been helped—Abraham and Lot did so in Gen 18-19
- o We were “strangers” when Christ took us in
- o Caring for those in prison
 - Importance of caring for prisoners
- o Believers were in prison just for bearing name of Jesus (example: Pliny)



- o Physical suffering/persecution was common in the ancient world
 - Definition of caring for prisoners
- o The call to “remember” shows we easily forget those who suffer
- o This applies not just to prisoners but to anyone suffering for Christ
 - Motive for caring for prisoners
- o “as though you were in prison with them” = “rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep” (Rom 12:15).
- o “since you are in the body” means we can sympathize/relate to them.
- o Jesus came in the body so he could suffer with us! (Heb 2:14-18). Don’t underestimate the power of sympathy!

II. Look Out for Yourself (v.4-6)

A. Sex

- o God cares about marriage/sex
 - “Let marriage be held in honor among all” (v.4)
 - “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife . . . What therefore God has joined together let man not separate” (Matt 19:5-6)
 - Why do you think marriage/sex matters so much to God? What is so important about it?
- o God will judge people’s sexual behavior
 - “God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous”
 - This is not popular today, but we need to hear it
- o Don’t Defile Your Marriage
 - “Let the marriage bed be undefiled”
 - First step is to guard your own marriage!

B. Money

- o Love of money is a serious danger
 - Problem is not money but “love of money” (v.5). Poor people can love money too!



- “ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.”
(1 Tim 6:9-10)
- Martin Luther: “there are three conversions necessary: the conversion of the heart, the conversion of the mind, and the conversion of the purse .”
- o Reason not to pursue money: God will provide!
 - “I will never leave you or forsake you” (v.5b; Josh 1:5)
 - “the Lord is my helper, I will not fear” (v.6; Ps 118:6)
 - Key point: The way a person treats money is the #1 test of their faith. It proves whether we really believe we are headed to a heavenly city waiting for us!
- o A great cure for the love of money: give generously!



Discussion Groups

1. How does this passage help you rethink hospitality? What are some practical next steps you can take to do hospitality better?

2. What are some practical steps that can be taken to protect a person's marriage?

3. Why do you think money is such a key litmus test for our faith? How's your heart doing today in regard to your love for money? What can you do to begin fight this idol?

