

# 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?

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

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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?

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