

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MAY 3RD–4TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

WALKING TOGETHER (HEBREWS 13:1–9)

WHAT IS BROTHERLY LOVE? (V. 1)

We are to show special regard for other Christians regardless of social, racial, or economic status. In essence, **we are to treat each other like family.**

- We live in a culture that has distorted “love” (1 Corinthians 13; Matthew 22:36–40; 1 John 4:7; John 3:16; Hebrews 12).

LOVE THROUGH HOSPITALITY (V. 2)

Hospitality is how we welcome those passing through our lives. The reference to Genesis 18–19 reminds us to be intentional about it.

- Abe entertained people who were actually angels (Matthew 25:35–45). In our case, **we may never know who we are helping and the impact it may make.**

REMEMBER THE MISTREATED

First Century prisons were nothing like today. If prisoners were to eat or have clean clothing, people would have to bring the supplies. At this time, many Christians were imprisoned.

- Though we do not see real persecution here yet, we are to be mindful that it is happening in other places in the world.

“MARRIAGE MUST BE RESPECTED...”

While the author was writing this letter, both pagan and Jewish marriages were mostly unhealthy and marked with immorality.

- God designed the nuclear family, but we have deeply damaged the integrity of it. **We must pursue purity, contentment, and trust to develop strong families!**

HEALTHY MARRIAGES CREATE HEALTHY SOCIETIES

We are called to take marriage seriously. This means taking measures to **guard our eyes, hearts, and minds and to be alert to things that distract us from being good spouses.**

- **The effects of divorce are huge.** Abuse, insecurity, and poverty rise dramatically because of a flippant view of marriage.

ANOTHER THREAT TO SOCIETY IS MATERIALISM

There is nothing wrong with money or success, but **the “love of money” and material things is evil** (1 Timothy 6:10).

- We are to be content with what we have. We live in a culture that covets, tries to impress, is entitled, and selfish. **This is not to be the mindset of the Believer.**

ANXIETY IS A THREAT?

The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? (Psalm 118:6–7). It is normal to worry at times, but if we trust Christ, we can overcome anxiety and fear.

- **Fear is not a spirit given to us from God (2 Timothy 1:7). We are not designed to be crippled by anxiety.**

FOLLOW THE RIGHT PEOPLE

Imitate leaders who know and live the Word of God. **Once we see the “outcome of their lives,” we follow their example.**

- When choosing who to follow we must examine their “fruit.” Do we want to be in the same place? **Do we take direction from people who haven’t gone anywhere?**

DO NOT BE SWAYED BY “STRANGE TEACHINGS”

These recipients believed diets and rituals could save them. Paul cleared this up in 1 Corinthians 8:8; “Food will not bring us close to God.”

- This goes for any man-made religious practice. **Grace through faith is how we are saved, and we are to conform to Christ’s standards, not man’s.**

DIFFERENTLY (HEBREWS 13:10–17)

A SPECIAL ALTAR

Jews who served in the temple had limited access to the resources of the temple and to God, but the Jews who gave their life to Christ have complete access because of Jesus.

- Vs. 10–11 subtly warn us **not to depend on meaningless rituals, but to focus on worshiping God in Spirit and Truth.**

JESUS DIES OUTSIDE THE CITY (V. 12)

Jesus was then taken outside of Jerusalem to be crucified. His death outside the city represents His rejection by the religious establishment.

- **We are urged to separate from the false security of man-made rituals for the true security and “danger” of pursuing Christ.**

WALKING DANGEROUSLY?

First, **we live in the present, but we are investing in our future.** We are to be looking for an “enduring city” that has not come yet.

- Second, **Christians are to be sacrificial.** This means we love, help others, share our excess, and pull others to a higher standard! **The Christian believes it’s not all about us!**

“A SACRIFICE OF PRAISE”

His glory, not our comfort, should be the focus of life. We are to be consistent and constant in our love and devotion to Him. We are to demonstrate goodness, greatness, and mercy (Psalm 51).

- **Works do not save, but they should be a natural byproduct of the saved!** (James 2).

SUBMITTING TO GODLY LEADERSHIP

We are called to submit, respect, and obey Christian leadership. On the flip side, leaders are to be **“above reproach”** (Titus 1:6–7), merciful, and fair to those they lead.

- **We are to honor authority, even if it is not Christian, but our biblical mandates always outweigh the laws of man.**

GENUINE AFFECTION (HEBREWS 13:18–25)

“PRAY FOR US”

The author asks for prayer while he/she is traveling, and mentions they have a “clear conscience” and are acting “honorably in everything.”

- We should pray for people who request it, but the recipient also has a responsibility to live in accordance to the Word.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Unknown circumstances were preventing the author from visiting and he thought their prayers could help. He asked to be “restored” (to visit) with his brothers and sisters in Christ.

- This further shows the power of prayer, community, and the need for unity among Believers.

MAY THE “GOD OF PEACE” BE WITH YOU (VS. 20–21)

Jesus is peaceful, the great Shepherd who leads us through tough times. He will bring out the best in us if we will **trust His will, let Him equip us, and let Him work in us “what is pleasing in His sight.”**

- **The work of Christ is the only thing that enables us to function properly.**

OUR BROTHER TIMOTHY

Paul’s protégé and talented young leader, Timothy, had been imprisoned but was apparently being freed and coming their way.

“THOSE...FROM ITALY SEND YOU GREETINGS”

We are not 100% sure who this was, but it was obviously a body of Believers in Italy, most likely Rome.

SHORT, BUT IMMENSELY IMPORTANT

Hebrews is considered a brief letter (read in less than an hour), but its “exhortation,” or point, is simple and profound.

- The author simply urges us to receive the message. **Do not just hear about Christ; receive Him, follow Him, and honor Him, because everything hangs in the balance.**

TO BE THE CHURCH THAT HONORS CHRIST

- Love others in a biblical way, balancing grace and truth.
- Be hospitable and kind.
- Remember the less fortunate and those who have suffered for their faith.
- Respect marriage and family through honoring the parameters of the Word.
- Do not become materialistic, but become more sacrificial.
- Do not succumb to fear and anxiety, but trust in God for strength and courage.
- Follow people who follow the Word.
- Do not depend on religious action, but on a relationship with Jesus.

AN INVITATION TO EXPERIENCE GOD

- Hebrews is an invitation and urging for us to experience the love and grace of God. **We are not to just believe in Jesus, we are to receive and live in Him.**
- We cannot earn a relationship with God. We can only respond to His pursuit by opening the door (Revelation 3:20).

RECEIVING CHRIST INVOLVES 100%

- **Saving faith** means we 100% **submit** to Jesus through **obedience to His Word, strive to love like He does, trust in His principles, and endure** through persecution. **Saving faith** is a relationship with Jesus that **receives much grace as we grow in righteous living.**

WE RECEIVE MORE THAN WE INVEST

- When we relent to God and surrender our hearts and minds to Him, we receive **benefits and rewards far beyond anything we can produce on our own.**
- We get not only heaven, but **security, hope, peace of mind, love, wisdom, etc.,** that we can live in now as we anticipate **eternity.**