

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MAY 4TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

FELLOWSHIP (HEBREWS 13:1-6) BROTHERLY LOVE

The basis for fellowship is brotherly love. As Christians, these Hebrews had certainly experienced their fair share of rejection and hate, even from their own families. But they had love for each other that would continue.

- **We need to be connected to a loving fellowship of Believers so we can keep each other going. Biblical love is always others-focused. What kind are we giving?**

HOSPITALITY

In the context of brotherly love, we should show hospitality to other Believers and to everyone because God uses unexpected sources (messengers) to minister to His children.

- **It is to our shame as Christians that we fail to be hospitable to everyone. We may realize that it was our loss because of how we treated God's messenger.**

AS THOUGH YOU...

The writer calls the readers to remember those who are in jail and those who are mistreated. He tells them to see themselves in the same circumstances.

- **Our commitment to one another is more than concern; it is a COMPASSIONATE and EFFECTIVE care for others. It may be inconvenient and costly, but one day, it may be us praying for someone to care.**

MARRIAGE AND MONEY

This writer knows what causes friction and frustration in life and instructs the married folks to stay faithful and everyone to be content with what God has given them.

- **Today's culture expects little of marriage and focuses more on what we can acquire. Freedom comes from following Christ in reverence and awe. When we do this TOGETHER, we will be (holy) satisfied.**

LEADERSHIP (HEBREWS 13:7-9) REMEMBER

It is interesting that the writer instructs them to remember what their leaders had spoken to them from God's word and observe how their lives had turned out. Maybe those leaders had been martyred or extremely persecuted. In the end, they remained faithful.

- **It is fair and biblical to expect our leaders, teachers, and pastors to live godly lives.**

WHO DOESN'T CHANGE?

Yet, while you remember them, focus on Jesus Christ. Our leaders should be growing in their faith and submitting to needed change. Jesus doesn't change! He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

- **As we grow together, we will all change. God is conforming us to the image of Christ. Are we focusing more on our leaders than our Savior?**

WHAT DOESN'T CHANGE?

Because Jesus doesn't change, Christianity, if rightly understood, doesn't change. Because these remain the same, we are able to detect false teaching and not stray.

- **False teaching and legalism may appeal to our senses and stir our emotions, but they will never mature any Believer. Grace alone will do that, and it is only found in Christ. What or who do we want to change?**

WORSHIP (HEBREWS 13:10-19) WE HAVE AN ALTAR

The writer is not talking about a literal altar like the one being used in the temple. Our altar is Jesus.

- In the temple, the high priest would slaughter the offering outside and bring the blood into the holy place to sprinkle on the altar. Then, the animal's body would be taken outside the temple to be burned.

NO RIGHT TO EAT

The rule was simple. If the blood of the offering was carried in, then the carcass of the offering was carried out, and if the body of an offering was carried outside the temple, then the priests were not allowed to eat it.

- The point being made was that the priests were still observing what was old and could not partake of what is new.

OUTSIDE THE GATE

Jesus was crucified, buried, and resurrected outside of the temple and the city. The emphasis is on the separation from dead religion and identification with Jesus Christ in His disgrace.

- **It is not about where we are from (an enduring city here), it is about where we are going. Are we proud of who we are, or humbled because of where we belong?**

SACRIFICE OF PRAISE AND WORKS

The writer names two spiritual sacrifices we offer as Christians: praise and works.

- **We should make sacrifices with our lips but also with our lives. We cannot be all talk and no action. When we say we love how God uses His Church in this community but only show up for worship, are we pleasing God or ourselves? Who is our sacrifice really for?**

OBEY AND SUBMIT

In a world of evil, oppression, and corruption, these words are contrary to the human spirit. As Believers, we understand that submissiveness is the way to blessing, growth, and maturity.

- **We were warned a few verses ago to watch out for false teachers. So, what kind of leaders are we supposed to follow?**

THEY KEEP WATCH

Submission to these leaders will be much easier when we see that they are shepherds, loving Christ, loving the Church, and seeking to order things for God's glory and for our good.

- **Knowing that they care will help us listen to their encouragement, comfort, instruction, admonition, or rebuke.**

THEY WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT

Leaders have great responsibility but our submission is to the Word they share, not to the individual.

Each leader must give an account for the way they have fulfilled their duty as leaders.

- **The joy of Christian leaders is being vigilant to share the truth in love, then seeing it received and acted upon by those they shepherd. It is about seeing people obey and surrender to God's Word and following Christ.**
- **Would you pray for that kind of leader?**

EQUIPPED (HEBREWS 13:20-25) SUMMARY

The writer seems to gather the major themes of Hebrews: peace, the resurrected Christ, Jesus as the Great Shepherd, the blood, the covenant, spiritual maturity, and God's work in the Believer as they do His will and what is pleasing in His sight.

- **The grave is empty. Christ is alive and interceding for us. Now, He will give us the spiritual tools we need to please Him.**

BROTHERS AND SISTERS

The writer shows again his love for these people as he identifies them as brothers and sisters. He urges them to receive the message of this letter because he knew that natural abilities would not be enough for the understanding and undertaking of God's will.

- **Grace brought us here. Grace is growing us. Grace is still calling us to go and grow. Can we hear it? How will we respond?**

WORSHIP

- We made it this far.
- **Most people make it this far, even if they do not walk through the doors.**
- **Many are looking for fellowship and find a place to worship, while others are looking to worship and find fellowship. God desires both from His children. Is worship and brotherly love enough?**

GROWTH

- Every Believer should be growing.
- **If worship and fellowship are enough, following Jesus is not our desire.**
- **The hard part about growth is realizing that we are not as mature as we want people to believe. When we are as willing to grow as God wants to grow us, we will begin to follow Christ.**

GOOD

- God calls us to do "good works."
- **This isn't doing our best, it's doing more than we can do. It's God working through our surrendered hearts, lives, souls, and strength.**
- **When we remember our resurrected savior and His sacrifice, our desire will be to WORSHIP, GROW, and SERVE. What are we remembering? Is it really bigger than Christ? What will it take to let go and run to Him?**