The Letter To The Hebrews Love, Hospitality, and Compassion Hebrews 13:1-3

Introduction

Jesus is God's Son who conquered death, sympathizes with us, & is the per- fect priest & sac- rifice for our sins	Therefore draw near to God, cling to His promises, encourage each other, and stir up faith in Him as your better pos- session	Stir up <u>faith</u> , because by faith we please God, work mira- cles, fight sin, & obey	So run the race of <u>faith</u> in Christ!	Because you have an unshakeable and infinitely valuable salvation	Therefore, love, fight greed, rely on Jesus, fol- low your leaders, and pray for us
1:1-10:18	10:19-39	11:1-40	12:1-17	12:18-29	13:1-25

How can we continue in brotherly love? (v.1)

Brotherly love refers to a feeling of affection we have for our brothers and sisters in Christ. We can see an example in 1 Thess 2:8. This shows that brotherly love means *feeling affection* toward others, *desiring* to be with them, and having them be *very dear* to us.

So how do we continue in brotherly love toward others? We feel the most affection toward those who share our highest joys — because being with them increases our greatest joy.

Example: someone whose greatest joy is the 49ers — and feels affection for a friend who also loves the 49ers. But think of how the affection would change if he became a Raiders fan.

When Christ is our greatest joy, our brothers and sisters in Christ will increase our joy in him.

The result is that we will feel affection for them, we will desire to spend time with them, and they will be very dear to us.

But if something becomes more precious to us than Christ, then we will no longer have that same affection for our brothers and sisters.

So the way we continue in brotherly love is by keeping our hearts set on Christ.

What is hospitality and why should we pursue it? (v.2)

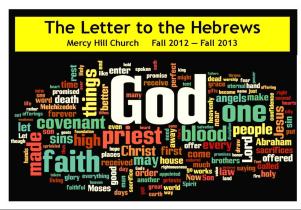
Hospitality means having people who are not part of your household into your home. Every follower of Jesus is called to do this (Rom 12:13; 1 Pet 4:9). We can do this with neighbors, missionaries, those in our home group. The author motivates us with the possibility of entertaining angels.

How would we remember those who are imprisoned and mistreated? (v.3)

Because we are one body in Christ, when others suffer we should feel it as if it was our own suffering.

We can do this for those in pain, those unemployed, those who have lost loved ones.

We also can do this for believers who suffer around the world. See www.persecution.org.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

What questions did this passage, or the other passages, raise in your mind?

Which of these three commands are you strongest in? Weakest in? Why?

Do you agree that we feel the most affection toward those who share our greatest joys? Why or why not?

Does it make sense that what stops our affection is having something take Christ's place as our greatest joy? Why or why not?

How do you feel about hospitality? Why do you think hospitality is so important? What holds us back from inviting each other over? How can we overcome those reasons?

Can you think of a time when you deeply felt the suffering of another? What contributed to that?

What gets in the way of this?

Who is suffering in our home group? In our church? What concrete ways could we help them?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

