

Hebrews 13.1-6

Who is Love?

Ch 13 Feet back on LEVEL Ground > Down from Peaks of Sinai / ZION

Chapter > MUNDANE Issues Hospitality, Marriage, Church Officers

Putting on SLIPPERS on Monday Morning after Sunday Celebration @ Kalahikiola

This EXACT Place God CALLS Us to LIVE Out our Faith in Jesus

IF Jesus is BETTER & You FOLLOW Him > You should BE Better too!

Chpt Details some NITTY GRITTY of Life FOR Jesus in Real WORLD

In the Bible DOCTRINE Calls us to DUTY > Revelation to Responsibility

v. 1 “Let brotherly love continue.” KEEP ON Loving One Another

Brotherly Love – Phileos > BASIS of Christian Fellowship

No Doubt these Hebrew Xtians were REJECTED by Family & Friends

Deepest Fellowship NOT RACE or BIRTH > New Birth – Blood of X

One of FINAL Commands Jesus gave Disciples > Night before CROSS

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” John 15.12

We can PUT UP Signs to Point our TOWN to KALAHIKIOLA Church

Last 23 yrs Pastored GOV’T NOT Allow any Church Signs – KZ, China

What GOV’T could NOT Stop was MOST POWERFUL Sign of Church

Jesus: “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13.35

Greatest EVANGELISTIC Tool > Program? Preaching? Music? LOVE!

LOVE lived Out in Family of God: Aunties, Uncles, Brothers, Sisters,

First Readers of Letter in SOCIETY much LIKE OURS

DEPRAVED Society awash in SEXUAL Perversion & INDULGENCE

Returned from China back to USA – NEW Slogan: “Love is Love”

Anyone’s definition of Love is Valid > Many answers “What is love?”

Better Question: “Who is love?” > The answer: God Alone

CREATOR – Body & Soul / Made Creatures who FEEL: Love, Joy, Fear

God KNOWS Definition of Woman, Man, Marriage, Sex, Family

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

1 John 4.7,8

v. 2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

REAL Love DOES Not Stop at the BENEDICTION

WORSHIP that PLEASES God, Not just IN Church > Also in HOMES

Where there is TRUE Christian Love there will be Practical Hospitality

KZ > Kazakhs / Muslims follow ‘ISA (Jesus) Kicked OUT of HOMES

Hebrew Xtians DRIVEN from their HOMES when STAND for JESUS

“you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one” Hebrews 10.34

REAL LOVE has NO Boundaries >> Reaches STRANGERS

Pharisee asked JESUS ‘Who is my Neighbor?’ >> Good SAMARITAN

Stops for Stranger in Need > Comforts, Cleans, Covers his EXPENSES

1st Century – No Hilton, Sheraton, Marriot, Motel 6 – Inns were Brothels

EARLY Church > Traveling Prophets/Teachers before NT was Complete

Needed HOSPITALITY for Church Meetings, Travelers, Outreach

“Gospel Comes with Housekey” > place of Ministry to Neighborhood

Never KNOW WHO you May be HELPING with HOSPITALITY

Abraham 3 Visitors > ANGELS of God > Showed for LUNCH

v. 3 Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.

NOT Only some Believers Kicked OUT of HOMES > Some Imprisoned

IDENTIFYING w/ Prisoners MIGHT Get You put into PRISON too!

“you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison”
Hebrews 10.32-34

STAND with Them amidst DANGERS like JESUS Stood for Us w/ LIFE

Seminary Director in KZ > Wrote Book for young pastors on Preaching

Book Translated > Russian and Kazakh

Christian Leader from Uzbekistan > Conf I was Teaching in KZ

She said “We need your book in our churches in Uzbekistan”

Gladly give 2! – Well known UZ Law – Only 2 of any Religious Books

She said I need 10! WARNED & GAVE > Arrested at KZ/UZ Border

“Even those imprisoned justly merit Christian help, since Jesus ministered to the guilty and the condemned simply because they were human beings”
Ray Steadman

BELIEVERS in Prison > Not Figurative > LITERAL in USA

Best Congregational SINGING Ever Heard was in KCC

Kulani Christian Fellowship in 1990’s in Kulani Correctional Facility

Once a Month > Sunday Nights for Several Years > PREACH Word

One Brother “The Lord is Good, and His Mercies Endure Forever!”

Depth of GRATITUDE and JOY for the Mercy and Forgiveness of Jesus

v. 4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

Marriage > where Church Life and Family Life FOLD Together

Sadly SEXUAL Immorality NOT STOP at Front Door of CHURCH

1981 1st Africa > Pastors & Priests Girl Friends > KIDS of PRIESTS

Nothing RUIN Testimony of Pastor/Church than Sexual Unfaithfulness

Pastor to Hebrews CLEAR > SEX belongs in MARRIAGE BED

Any SEXUAL Relationship Outside Married MAN & WOMAN is SIN

“The Bible’s words on life and sexuality have offended every culture in every age, as people have risen up to try to save God from his own bad image. God doesn’t need saving—we do!”

Rachel Gilson, Born Again this Way

Husbands/Wives hold Precious TRUST before the LORD and His church.

Need EXAMPLES of Strong Marriages show Young Families & World

Keep Marriage Bed PURE by Self-CONTROL & Godly RESTRAINT

Need GOD-Fearing SINGLES who also Keep Marriage Pure by PURITY

God is HONORED when Couples & Whole Church HONORS the VOWS

Abraham Lincoln “If you call a dog’s tail a leg, how many legs does a dog have?” -----
“Five,” people answered.

“No,” politely “correct answer is 4. Calling a tail a leg, not make it a leg.”

Dog Tail Not Same Functions as Leg > Can’t Run, Swim, Scratch an Itch

If USE Same WORD – 2 Different parts – Leg & Tail > New Definition

New meaning Leg: No PAW at End, No Running, Swimming, Scratching

Now word LEG > Stripped of ALL that word LEG ONCE MEANT

Same is True w/ Redefine Marriage > Polygamy, Homosexual, Animals

God DESIGNED form Marriage > One Man, One Woman, for LIFE

Essential to Marriage > Permanence, Fidelity, & Sexual Complementarity

DOG might LOSE Tail or Leg / Marriage’s BREAK and FAIL

UNCHANGING Reality of DOG – or MARRIAGE – Remains SAME

Neither State /Church: Authority change Essential Nature Dog /Marriage

Changing definition of Dog or Marriage > Attempt to Redefine Reality
 Reality always gets Final Word > Ultimate Reality is God, His WORLD

v. 5 “Keep your life free from love of money”

Connected Ideas: BIG Reason Marriages FAIL > MONEY Problems
 REASSURE them of Lord’s ABILITY to Protect & Provide HIS People

TREASURES of Earth > Broken, Stolen, or covered w/ Kohala MOLD
 God’s PROMISES are SECURE > No Thieves, Rust, Not even GECKOS!
 MEN may STEAL Our TREASURES, but God will Meet our NEEDS

v. 5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have

Quality of Life NOT Determined by Possessions but CONTENTMENT

Times of SUFFERING can lead to SELFISHNESS or SERVICE

PROSPERITY Theology > Not CULTIVATE Contentment but GREED

CONTENTED Xtians have Priorities > Material Things not HIGH on List

“You worship God more by contentment than when you come to hear a sermon, or spend half and hour, or an hour, in prayer, or when you come to receive a sacrament. These...are only external acts of worship...But contentment is the soul’s worship, to subject itself thus to God...by being pleased with what God does”
 Jeremiah Burroughs

“Contentment is the product of a heart resting in God...It is the blessed assurance that God does all things well, and is, even now, making all things work together for my ultimate good.”
 Arthur Pink

vs. 5,6 for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”

Extraordinary Promise the TRANSFORMS Our Thinking

Here is the ENGINE that Drives Xtians to LOVE & HOLINESS

God’s Faithful PRESENCE as our SUSTAINER and HELPER

IF God is My HELPER, What can MAN do to ME?

God's PROMISE to be WITH US – His Name is JESUS – Emmanuel
 The GOD who Gave Us His SON > Will give us Everything Else He Has
 Here ANTIDOTE to Fears that AFFLICT Us, Lead us AWAY from God

Man may Threaten our PEACE > but GOD is Able to Provide our NEEDS
 People may SHUN Us > but we have LOVE of God and FAMILY of God
 People may LOCK Us up or MISTREAT Us > but God will FIND Us

What can man do to me if God is my helper?

...be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

Hebrews 13.¹Let brotherly love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. ⁵Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁶So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"