

Sovereign Grace Church

“Brotherly Love” outline

November 5, 2017

Hebrews 13: 1-6

We are beginning the concluding chapter of the book of Hebrews this morning. We have seen how the writer in this book is appealing to his Hebrew Christian congregation to stay the course with Jesus and not return to the temporal security of the shadows of the Old Covenant. Physical persecution seemed to be just on the horizon but the writer insists that these persecutions pale in comparison to the loss one would undergo in rejecting the only Savior that can bridge the gap between a holy God and a sinful mankind. Jesus came as the promised fulfillment of the shadows of the Old Covenant's sacrificial and priestly services. To return to the apparent safety of these Old Covenant shadows would be to reject the very Reality that the shadows were shadows of!

In the final chapter the writer begins a series of exhortations to persevere in the love of the brethren and the purity of life in Christ. We will begin to consider these exhortations this morning along with suggestions as to how they might fit in with a general concern of persecution.

1. Loving the Brethren vv. 1-3

- A Call to Remember Hospitality
I Pet. 4:9; Rom. 12: 13,20; Lk 14:13; Heb. 10: 24-25

- A Call to Remember the Prisoners
Col. 4: 18; II Tim. 1: 16; 4: 13; I Cor. 12: 26; Matt 25

2. A Holy Love vv. 4-5a

- Sanctity of Marriage
Heb. 12: 16; Rom. 12: 1; I Thess 4: 4-5

- Guarding against Covetousness
Col. 3: 5

3. Christ's Love: Our Security vv. 5b-6

I John 4: 17; Josh. 1:5; Psm 118: 6; Rom. 8: 38-39; Matt 28: 18b-20

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

- 1. Do you enjoy being hospitable to people? What is the primary challenge in developing the skill of hospitality? Does it require wealth or material assets? Can a homeless person show hospitality? How?**
- 2. Have you ever entertained “strangers”? If so did you feel uneasy? Might being hospitable to strangers put your own family/friends at risk? How? Is this a good reason not to do it?**
- 3. Read Luke 10: 38-42 as a description of two sisters showing hospitality to Jesus. What lessons can be learned in our efforts to entertain our fellow Christians/friends/neighbors?**
- 4. How can Christians be of service to prisoners? Especially those who have been falsely imprisoned for their commitment to Christ? Is there some risk in serving fellow believers in prison? What is it? Have you ever participated in some sort of prison ministry?**
- 5. Have you ever been addicted to anything? Did you find it a challenge to overcome? Is it possible to overcome serious addictions by will-power alone? What else is needed? What is the cultural significance of marriage? How is today's political propensity to play with marriage playing with fire? Should the state recognize marriage? How?**
- 6. Consider those closest to you for a moment....people with whom you enjoy a reciprocal trusting relationship. What might be a candidate for idolatry in their life? Have them do the same for you. *[I put it this way because often personal idolatries are not that easy to spot because of self-deceit]* Do your friends' suggestions resonate with your deeper reflections of yourself? How can we be delivered from idolatries and covetousness?**