

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

Ethics Hebrews 13:1–8

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Day One: Read Hebrews 13:1.

1. One commentator, reflecting on the end of chapter 12, defines God as “both the consuming fire of Mount Sinai and the consuming love of Mount Zion.” As you reflect on this, what is the connection between the end of chapter 12 and this section of Hebrews 13?

2. The love stated in verse 1 is “philadelphia” or brotherly and sisterly love. This was a highly esteemed virtue when the book of Hebrews was written. Is that true of today? Why or why not?

3. How has the culture influenced the way you love others?

4. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 John 3:14,16; and John 13:35. Are these verses descriptive of your love? Why or why not? (If you have any favorite verse on love, please share them with the group.)

5. How does God view the love which the body expresses to one another? (Psalm 133; John 17:11, 20–23)

Day Two: Read Hebrews 13:2,3.

6. What does the author tell the reader not to forget? Why do you think he exhorted them in this way?

7. Who is a stranger?
 - A. How do you view strangers?

 - B. What effect does this have on the way you treat strangers?

8. Why is hospitality so important?

9. How are we to care for the needy? (verse 3). According to this verse, what attitude should you have toward the needy?

Day Three: Read Hebrews 13:4–6.

10. How are adultery, sexual immorality, and the love of money related?

11. Verse 4 states that “marriage should be honored by all.” It does not say by only those who are married. How does God want everyone to honor marriage? What are some practical ways you can do this? (1 Timothy 5:1)

12. What happens to the unrepentant adulterer and sexually immoral person?

13. What did Christ say about the love of money? (Matthew 6:19–21, 24; Mark 4:19; Mark 10:23–27; Luke 12:15)

14. What hope does God give us? (vss 5,6)

Day Four: Read Hebrews 13:7,8.

15: What three exhortations are we to consider about leaders?

16. How does verse 8 relate to verse 7?

Day Five: Application.

17. Has this passage caused you to think about how you love those in or outside the body of Christ, those in need, the troubled; and about your relationship to money?

A. Are there any actions which the Holy Spirit is calling you to take to restore the brotherly love within the body of Christ?

B. What will be your action and who will you ask to pray for you as you take this action?

18. How are we ever able to fulfill these exhortations in Hebrews 13? (Meditate on John 15:1–17, especially verse 5)