



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Walking in Love
THEME Hebrews Revisited

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Hebrews 13 was written to Jewish Christians facing persecution and struggling with their faith. During a period of persecution, the Jewish Christians faced hostility from both the Jews and the Romans, who perceived them as distinct from the Jewish community. Some Jewish Christians were tempted to abandon their faith and return to Judaism. This backdrop underscores the urgency of Hebrews' message, urging believers to rekindle their fervour for God, evaluate their relationships with God and encourages practical expressions of love. Hebrews 13:1-5 illustrates this through the demonstration of compassion, commitment, contentment, providing guidance for living out the Christian faith authentically.

PRACTICAL HANDLES TO LOVE OTHERS

- **Compassion – Love all, not some**

In Hebrews 13: 1-3, we learn that it is crucial to extend love and hospitality to three groups:

- (1) Christian brothers and sisters
- (2) Strangers: Ps Low emphasized the importance of demonstrating love through tangible actions, including showing hospitality to both brethren and strangers. In ancient times, lodging options were often limited and unsafe, prompting Christians to open their homes to strangers, potentially even hosting angels unknowingly. In today's context, let us extend a warm welcome to our newcomers and embrace the spirit of inclusivity.
- (3) Those in prison: The text reminds us to support those who are imprisoned for their faith. In times of persecution, Christians faced imprisonment and experienced hardship, necessitating empathy from fellow believers. While many persecuted Christians may not be physically present among us, we can still stand in solidarity with them. Reflecting on the experiences of early Christian leaders who endured imprisonment for their beliefs, we are urged to extend compassion and assistance to those facing similar trials today.

This call to love and serve reminds us that as we care for our fellow brothers and sisters, we are also demonstrating our love for Christ (Matt 25). Thus, let us love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength by extending that love to all (Mark 12:30-31).

- **Commitment: Love one, not many**

Hebrews 13: 4 says that "Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral." It is important to set boundaries

and strive to keep yourself pure, relying on God's strength to guide you along the path of righteousness. Guard yourself against sex before marriage, adultery and sexual immorality. For those who have stumbled, turn to God in repentance, seek His forgiveness and then move forward with the help of God's grace. Although our righteousness is found solely in Christ, this does not grant us the license to persist in behaviours that are contrary to God's Word. God will use you as a powerful instrument if you keep yourself pure. For those who are married, your commitment is to love only your spouse and maintain purity. For those who are single, remember that your ultimate companion is Jesus Himself. There may be certain applications or websites that you need to remove from your devices in order to maintain purity.

- **Contentment – Love God, not money**

In Hebrews 13:5-6, Paul reminds us that Christ has set us free, particularly from the love of money, urging us to find contentment in God rather than material possessions. Money often offers a false sense of security, self-worth and superiority. However, our true worth is found in our identity in Christ. Godliness with contentment is great gain (1 Tim 6:6). The Lord assures us that He will never leave you nor forsake you. This repetition emphasizes the absolute certainty that God will never abandon or desert His people. In Greek, it conveys a powerful and unequivocal promise of divine companionship and support. Cultivate a spiritual discipline of thanksgiving and a grateful heart (Ps 100:4). Do not compare yourself with others. Set realistic expectations and simplify your life. Learn to appreciate and enjoy every moment of your life.

CONCLUSION

Hebrews was written during troubled times, amidst persecution, and if you are feeling troubled today, God wants to minister to you. As you worship, envision God's presence lifting you up, pouring out His love on you and be confident with faith that God is there to help you. Hold onto the assurance that God is ever-present and will never leave you nor forsake you.

QUESTIONS

1. When was the last time you showed compassion to others? Who can you bless this week?

2. What are you doing to keep your purity before God? Who is someone that you can be accountable to?

3. Consider practical steps you can take to cultivate a mindset of contentment and reliance on Christ in a world that often equates success with financial gain. How can you actively seek fulfilment in your relationship with God rather than in worldly possessions?