

LIVING BY THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Aim of the lesson: To learn to put hope in Christ's promises and not be troubled by the cares of this world.

THE WAY OF BELIEVERS – 13:1-9

Compassion – 13:1-3

Love the brethren (*philadelphia* = brotherly love). Love local believers, traveling believers [strangers] and imprisoned believers. They were to provide meals and lodging for Christian travelers because public lodging was unfit for believers. They also were urged to visit believers in prison, which they had been doing (10:32-34), but were exhorted to continue this ministry in spite of the potential danger that they might encounter. They were to encourage them and help them in any way that they could.

Chastity – 13:4

Love your spouse: be faithful to your marriage partner so your marriage is kept honorable, for God will judge the immoral persons that defile His institution of marriage.

Contentment – 13:5-6

Love God, not money (*aphilarguros* = no love of money), for He has promised never to leave us. He is our helper and will supply our needs (Phil 4:19). We need to be content with His supplies.

Conformity – 13:7

Love your former spiritual leaders, who taught you the Word of God. Be conformed to the godly way that they lived.

Changeless – 13:8-9

Love the unchanging character (and doctrine) of Christ, who is the same yesterday, today and forever, which their leaders had taught them (v. 7). They needed sound convictions to keep their hearts firm in the grace of Christ and not in the meats (sacrifices) of false teachers, which provided no profit for them.

THE WORSHIP OF BELIEVERS – 13:10-17

Consecration – 13:10-14

Love for Christ is proved when we bear His reproach by which we are crucified to the world (Gal 6:14). The Day of Atonement is described in 13:10-11 (see 7:27; 9:7, 25; 10:1-3). Once a year, the high priest would go into the Holy of Holies with the blood of animals for himself and for the congregation. Then these animals were burned outside the city. The city represents Judaism or the world, which a believer must leave and be consecrated to Christ. There is no continuing city for us in the world system, but we look for one to come, the New Jerusalem, where all believers will live with Christ in glory.

Contributions – 13:15-16

Love for Christ will prompt us to contribute the sacrifice of praise to God continually, giving thanks to Him for all things, pain and pleasure, rebukes and rewards (1 Th 5:18).

Love for Christ will prompt us to do good deeds to others and contribute what we have with them. Give and it shall be given to you (Lk 6:38).

Command – 13:17

Love for Christ will cause us to submit to our spiritual leaders because they watch for the welfare of our souls (see Heb 12:15-17). Obeying this command will please Christ and He will bless us.

THE WARMTH OF BELIEVERS – 13:18-25

Companionship – 13:18-19

Love for fellow companions in the faith will cause the church to pray for the requests of its spiritual leaders.

Care – 13:20-21

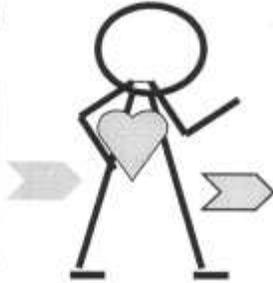
Love for believers will cause spiritual leaders to care for the welfare of the church.

Counsel – 13:22-25

Love for believers will cause spiritual leaders to counsel and encourage (exhort) believers to remain true to Christ and not return to the practices and pleasures of the world.

FIVE MOVES AWAY FROM THE WORD OF GOD IN HEBREWS

God's Word



1. We drift from God's Word [2:1-4]

Appeal: Do not forget the blessings of God's salvation. Love Christ.

God's Word



2. We doubt God's Word [3:7-4:13]

Appeal: Do not forfeit the promises of God's rest. Rest in Christ.

God's Word



3. We deny God's Word [5:11-6:8]

Appeal: Do not fail to grow by God's grace. Grow in Christ

God's Word



4. We defy God's Word [10:26-31]

Appeal: Do not flout the vengeance of God's judgment. Obey Christ.

God's Word



5. We disown God's Word [12:18-29]

Appeal: Do not forsake the hope of God's promises. Trust Christ.