

Hebrews 13:1-25 The way of Love

Well, today we are coming to the end of our study in the book of Hebs, began March 7, 2011, 9mths 1wk

A)The writer of Hebrews has spent some time talking about the Hope that we have in Jesus –Our **ANCHOR Better Sacrifice/ Cov – Everything.**

B)Ch.11 – Talked about the Faith that is needed in order to live a life that pleases God.

C) Faith, Hope and Love – great Christian virtues – but the greatest of these is love.

1)So the writer is going to wrap this letter up by having us consider **the subject of love.**

D)Nine Characteristics of love.

Hebrews 13:1

Let brotherly love continue.

#1 Love flows among the saints.

A)The implication linguistically is that this love is not something you have **to work at, pump up, or rally around.** **It's already there.**

B)The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Romans 5:5

1)We need to celebrate that love.

C)Not loving we are resisting the very HS of Christ in our hearts – the essence of who He is – Fruit is Love

We can get so side tracked – Story

A man gave the following account....

I was walking **across the Golden Gate Bridge** when I saw a man about to jump off. I tried to dissuade him from **committing suicide** and told him simply that God loved him. I noticed a tear came to his eye. **“Are you a Christian?”** I asked. **“Yes,”** he said. **“Me too!”**

What a small world. Protestant or Catholic?”/
“Protestant.”“Me too!”

What denomination?” **“Baptist.”** **“Me too!”**

“Northern Baptist or Southern Baptist?”

“Northern Baptist.” **ME TOO**

“Northern Conservative Baptist or Northern Liberal Baptist?”/ **“Northern Conservative Baptist.”**

“Amazing!” I said. This is incredible! **ME TOO**

Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist or Northern Conservative Reformed Baptist?”

“Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist.”

“Remarkable!” **ME TOO**

Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist Great Lakes Region or Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist Eastern Region?”

“Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist Great Lakes Region.” **“This is a miracle!”** **ME TOO**

“Are you Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1879 or are you Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912?”

“Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912.”

“Die, you heretic,” I said—and pushed him over the rail.

That is an illustration of how easy it is to get sidetracked on trivial things

A)But there is something that we must come to grips with in the body of Christ –

B)**Different doesn't mean wrong!** – That is a huge problem in the church.

1)That person thinks differently about this or that – they are wrong.

C)We in **Calvary can be guilty of this** – We teach the Bible – verse by verse –

1)Anyone who doesn't do that – **Wrong/ inferior**

D)Most Churches don't **teach v by v**– most churches teach topical – but they Love Jesus

1)Different doesn't mean wrong – just means different – Let Love flow.

E)Essentials {key doctrinal stuff -Unity, non essentials – Liberty – All things Charity.

#1 Love flows among the saints – The thing that marks us.

#2 Love shows itself to Strangers: v.2

“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.”

A)Be hospitable to strangers. – Maybe an Angel

B)**Use common sense** – I don't think this is talking to weird people – Homeless drug addict is **NOT** going to be an Angel.

C)Never seen an Angel in the Bible –appear as some weird dude. - Demons yes.

D)We live **in a day and age** – where we have to be careful – especially single sisters.

1)And almost all the scriptures about taking care of the poor in the Bible are in reference to believers.

E)We are called to take care of our own.

1)Might find it is an Angel.

#3 Love cares about suffering V.3

3 Remember the prisoners as if chained with them — those who are mistreated — since you yourselves are in the body also.

A)Love not only flows among the saints and shows itself to strangers but also cares about those in bonds, Jail ministry.

B) Listen, pp make mistakes – we all do – for some pp’s mistakes they wind up in prison.

1) often times it is in prison that they come to Christ or get their lives right with the Lord.

C) Two **ex prisoners** on our staff and a few other guys who just didn’t get caught. -

B) Love has compassion on those that are hurting and those who are locked up

C) You do that **so well as a Church** – Hurting – rise to the occasion.

1) Jail ministry – many are involved.

#4 Love cleaves to one’s spouse! V.4

4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

A) We read this verse and often think that this only referencing things like – adultery or bringing pornography into a marriage – Defiles it

B) Those are **horrible things** that ruin a marriage and defile a marriage bed.

1) God will judge those who abuse the marriage bed

C) But the implication here is **ALSO positive**.

Marriage is honorable – precious – it is of great value

D) The marriage bed is not to **be defiled**, one definition is deformed. –

Beds have a purpose- main purpose is for sleeping

A) But the marriage bed has a purpose – connotation is intimacy and Romance. Sex

B) So Not just defiled or deformed when the sex is outside of marriage

C) But also when sex in marriage is not happening.

1) Is your sex life **DEFORMED!**

The marriage bed is like a flower bed, it is where love blossoms, blooms and grows.

A) I say that because there is a great misunderstanding in the marriage today.

B) Here is how many couples think: “Well if He was **nicer** to me or **if she respected** me more then we would come together Romantically/ physically

1) Sexually

C) Many couples are missing a key element in marriage because they have attached these conditions to their unity.

D) If we were more like this or that – then we would be unified. **ROMANTIC**

But we need to go back to the very beginning – the book of Genesis – Marriage was established.

A) God the Author of marriage declared

B)Man and woman were to leave parents – cleave to one another – the two become one flesh.

C)Break this down: 1st Leave parents – leave the old structures, the old relationships.

1)Leave those – and come together – 2nd cleave

D)RESULT: Unity and Oneness

But here is what a lot of people do is they invert that: They say is we were one – if we were getting along.

A)If we were communicating –If we were enjoying each other more as friends

B)THEN **WE WOULD be cleaving sexually!**

C)But that is not the DIVINE ORDER – it says cleave – then you will enjoy UNITY!

The reason is the cleaving – the Romance – IS NOT just **Prov.6:32 Not just a physical thing**

A)When two pp come together sexually in intimacy it is not just two bodies coming together.

B)It is two souls becoming one The connection is way more than the body – **it is soulish – it is spiritual.**

C)So many pp don't understand this – they think – that unity is the **prerequisite for sex. WRONG!!!!**

D)Unity can be a result of the sexual experience! –

So to say that you are not going to start enjoying sex until you are one – that is silly.

A)That is like saying – I am not going to eat until I start gaining weight

B)Well You are not going to gain weight until you eat.

C)Well you are not going to have unity until you start enjoying each other intimately!

Unity happens when a couple commit themselves to cleave – take time to cleave

A)Take seriously Romance –

B)NOT THE MAIN THING – NOT EVERYTHING – BUT IMPORTANT

Well there you have a little taste of some of the things we will be discussing in our marriage class.

A)The **Marriage bed is like a flower bed – it blossoms and it blooms and grows – Sweet result –**

B)But understand this: **This only works in Marriage!**

1)Dating: Don't be thinking – if we are going to be unified – **we need to cleave – WRONG**

C)If you are not married – trying to enjoy the marriage bed – **THERE IS NO UNITY.**

1)opposite Sins in sexual immorality – sins against his own body.

Think of it this way: Denise green thumb – special dirt to plant her flowers

A) That dirt in the flower bed is good. – Helpful – looks right – rich

B) Take that same dirt and throw it in our living room – doesn't look pretty! – PROBLEM

1) not good thing

C) Sex in marriage is great – **outside of marriage – problem** – Intimacy not ready for.

D) Couples fighting: You are sleeping together aren't you. – Sound like a married couple.

1) Sex in marriage nourishes the soul, outside of marriage it destroys the soul.

So # 4 Love is nourished in the marriage bed!

#5 Love brings Satisfaction. v. 5,6

5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say:

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not fear.

What can man do to me?"

Listen it is to the degree that I know that the Lord is with me – to the degree that I am enjoying intimacy with Him.

A) It is to that degree that I will be content!

B) The most content pp I know are not the ones who have a lot of stuff.

1) In fact often times they are the most discontent. Caught up in MATERIALISM

C) They want more – and since they have the means to get it – they are never satisfied.

D) Someone asked Rockefeller – How many millions does it take to make one happy – **ONE MORE.**

So the most CONTENT pp I have ever met are not the ones who have a lot –

A) No, it has been the ones – many times it is believers who are in other countries – poor – Africa / Russia

B) Who all they have is Jesus – they are satisfied so satisfied with HIM

C) Think of it this way: When you're newly married—**living on beans and decorating with bookshelves made of bricks and boards—**

1) you have very little materially.

D) But you don't even notice it because you're in love, and love brings true contentment and satisfaction.

First married nothing matters but being together – mismatched furniture.

A) House messy – food lousy – doesn't matter – love being together

Bb) Story: Dog ate biscuits – that is ok – we can get another DOG!!

1)Doesn't matter

B)So, too, if I'm in love with the Lord, I will not covet.

1)I will be content with whatever I have simply because He is with me.

C)Confident that He is with me – He is for me – He is my helper – So good!

1)**#5 Love brings satisfaction**

#6 Love is seen in submission! v.7,17

7 Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

This idea is actually mentioned twice in this passage
17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

Remember those who rule over you and obey those who rule over you.

A)Context here is Spiritual leadership – those who speak the word of God to you.

B)Those who watch out for your souls – those who are one day going to give account for their service

C)Be submitted to them – and the vision that God has put on their hearts.

1)Not a blind submission – do whatever they say
THAT IS CULTIC – CULTS STARTED.

D)Leaders need love – love is seen in submission – God has appointed a leader to lead a church.

Does that mean that a leader is never going to make mistakes? No – many mistakes – Human.

A)We are learning just like you are learning –

B)It is so enjoyable to lead a group of people who are submitted – who are with the vision.

1)Fun to come to Church. – I feel that way 90% of the time.

C)But it is a drag – to try and lead people who do not want to be led. –

1)Always resisting – always complaining – always focused on other things than Jesus.

D)I am so glad that most of you are not that way!

But note this: A word to leaders – there is room for your conduct to be scrutinized.

A)V.7 Consider the outcome of their conduct – Your conduct should match – your preaching

B)If it doesn't, there is room to question.

C)But if you have a spiritual leader who is living what he preaches – follow – because hopefully he is just pointing you to Jesus anyway.

So love is seen in Submission

#7 Love's source is Jesus! v.8– HUGE

8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

A)The fact that love flows among the saints and shows itself to strangers;

B)that it cares about suffering and cleaves to one's spouse; that it brings satisfaction

1)and is seen in submission

C)is all based upon the **singular presupposition that Jesus is the source and that He'll never change.**

D)The Love of Christ has been poured into our hearts by the very spirit of Christ – the Holy Spirit – Romans 5:5

1)Jesus now wants that love that He has poured into us to be poured out by us.

E)To our spouses, to a lost world, to our fellow believers - To the needy, those who are hurting.

Lesson: Anytime I am lacking in love – What I need is more of Jesus! – He is love –

A)Closer I get to Jesus – the more I am going to love The better I will love. More Complete/ true/ Honest

B)The more my love will reflect the love of Christ – sacrificial – unconditional – servant hearted.

C)Lacking love on the horizontal? The reason is VERTICAL – not connected rightly with the source of all Love.

So #7 Love's source is Jesus! – HUGE!!

#8 Love warns against Legalism. V.9-14

9 Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

10 We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. 11 For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp.

12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. 13

Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. 14 For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.

Here is the point in all of this: Keep your walk with the Lord based on Love – centered in grace and not strange doctrines –

A)Grace –Jason last week – Unmerited unearned favor

The author EXHORTS his readers to stay away from doctrines based upon rules and rituals, meats and sacrifices.

A) Instead, keep their walk with the Lord based on grace.

B) On the Cross, Jesus didn't say, "To be continued."

1) He said, "It is finished."

C) Sacrifices, self-effort, works of the flesh, ARE NOT PROFITABLE.

1) Those things do not improve your standing with God at all.

D) Those things get you focused on the external instead of the internal.

1) Produces Pride.

But what about the Altar – One might ask? What about our traditions?

A) Answer – We have a new Altar – Jesus left the temple, left the city, left all the traditions.

1) regulations, all of the priestly robes and fragrant incense,

B) Jesus went outside the camp outside the city – called Calvary. THE CROSS – new altar

C) SO the author admonishes Leave the city. Leave religion. Leave traditionalism. Leave rules, rituals, incense, and candles. Leave it all." It is Jesus

Interesting, today there is an increase in many churches on icons / pics/ rituals – in worship that are all an attempt to make – experience more tangible

A) But that mentality really goes against – the whole premise of the book of Hebrews.

B) You don't need pictures / rituals – you have the whole thing.

C) So #8 Love is going to warn against Legalism

1) Warn against getting caught up in things that will distract you from Grace.

#9 Love is expressed through the Sacrifice of Praise. 15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. 16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

A) Let us continually offer up the sacrifice of praise.

B) Why is it called the sacrifice of Praise? – Because there are times when we don't feel like praising the Lord. – Right

C) A question I have been asked often by new believers – THIS IS HUGE.

1) Pastor Rob – I haven't felt close to the Lord lately – I am bummed.

D) Then I share with them – I have gone months – where I haven't felt close to the Lord?

Really? You are the Pastor – new Church – but every Pastor would say the same thing.

A)Here is what I tell them. *the Scriptures have much to say about ministering in season and out of season.*”

B)And about walking by faith and not by sight!

C)You see, in my Christian walk, I find myself going through SPIRITUAL seasons.

1)There’s springtime—when, there are new understandings and fresh growth,

D)Springtime seasons - I sense the Lord’s presence in my heart. -AWESOME

Springtime leads to summertime—those warm, wonderful days when the new growth bears fruit

A)Summer time **seasons are active** – exciting – God is moving and working.

B)But Summertime leads to fall—when the winds blow and shake the leaves off my tree. BARE

C)**Fall leads to winter**—when the fall winds give way to a cold, wintry, silence. Silence – Lord where are you?

1)I used to get really depressed in wintertime.

Then I realized that if I am going to be a man who walks by faith and not by sight,

A)I need to learn that it is not about my feelings. monitor my feelings are fickle.

B)In those wintertime seasons the Lord asks , **“Are you going to walk by the state of your emotions—or by the promises of My Word?”**

C)Are you going to walk by faith and not by sight?

D)And the good news is - Winter doesn’t last forever. **It gives way to spring.**

1)But winter is necessary – for growth and development -

E)A simple way that we can walk by faith is to praise the Lord – even when we don’t feel like.

1)We are saying – My focus is You – My trust is in Your promise – not my feelings

V.16 Reminds us that Worship isn’t just about Singing – it is about living – Doing good to others

A)Not either or but both – SERVING

B)Nine Characteristics of Love -

Read V.18-25 – Final thoughts and prayers

18 **Pray for us**; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably. 19 But I especially urge you to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner.

20 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through **the blood of the everlasting covenant**, {It is all about the blood}21 make you **complete** in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

22 And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to **you in few words**. { **13 chapters** 23 Know that our brother Timothy has been set free, with whom I shall see you if he comes shortly.

24 Greet all those who rule over you, and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you.

25 Grace be with you all. Amen.