

LifeGroup Questions by Elaine Jelinek

Based on Hebrews 13:1-3

May 28, 2017

Overview

Coming to the conclusion of his letter to Hebrew Christians, the author reminds them of the importance of maintaining relationships that testify to the love of Christ. He begins by touching on how they are to act towards members of their familiar group (“at-home” faith family), believers that come from other places (extended faith family), and those who are suffering because of their confession of Jesus (the persecuted faith family.)

Bible Study

Hebrews 13:1

Let love continue among you. (The Voice)

Let’s do some word studies so we can better grasp what the author of this letter is asking of his audience, starting with verse one. The important word is “love.” In this case, he used the Greek word “*philadelphia*” (Strong’s #5360), what we know as “brotherly love.” This love-in-action is marked by the following:

- Tender affection;
- self-control;
- patience;
- A desire to do good to others.

Hebrews 13:2

Don’t forget to extend your hospitality to all—even to strangers—for as you know, some have unknowingly shown kindness to heavenly messengers in this way. (Hebrews 13:2, The Voice)

The first key word in this verse are *hospitality* (philonexia, Strong’s #5381); hospitality is shown through:

- A willingness to receive others with
- Warmth;
- Generosity;
- Friendliness.

Strangers is the second key word. The Greek word used here is *xenos* (Strong's #3581; foreign, alien.)

Strangers are not only those who come from another country; they are also those who:

- Have been estranged or excluded (from another group or family);
- Are unlike your own (i.e., different in race/ethnicity/culture).

Hebrews 13:3

Remember those imprisoned for their beliefs as if you were their cellmate; and care for any who suffer harsh treatment, as you are all one body. (The Voice)

We'll finish our word studies by looking at the word *remember* in the last verse for this week. Our author uses the Greek word *mimnasko* (Strong's #3403). In relation to those who are suffering for their faith, this word calls us to:

- Be mindful of;
- Be present with;
- Reflect upon.

The Hebrew word *zakar* (Strong's #2142; call, come, keep, put in remembrance) is our word *remember*. As used throughout the Old Testament, this word implies not only a thought or meditation, but a taking of action upon remembering.

Group Activity

Rewrite this week's verses replacing "love," "hospitality," "strangers," and "remember" with the words listed for each verse.

Discuss:

1. Do the "new" words affect your perception of the directives given in these three verses?
2. How does your faith family "continue in love" with each other, show hospitality to strangers, remember prisoners?
3. In what ways do you think your faith family can do better at these activities?
4. What action can you take to help your faith family grow in these areas?

Bonus Question – Do you believe that these directives extend to those outside of the faith family?