

# Jesus is Better – Hebrews

Hebrews 13:1-6

“The Lord is my Helper” – July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018



## Introduction

Hebrews 12:28 says “Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe.” Last week, we saw how what we value is essential for endurance in the Christian race – if we see the value of the prize at the finish line, the cost of endurance will seem minimal. What does *acceptable worship* look like? If we love God, we *will* love our Christian brother and sister (see [1 John 4:20](#)). *Love is an affectionate commitment to serve someone for their good.* Since our *ultimate good* is God; love means helping the other person know, love, and follow God. When we come to Hebrews 13, the author begins to show us practical expressions of *acceptable worship* lived in out in the ways we love and serve those around us.

## Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

## Sermon Outline

- I. Love your family (13:1-3)
- II. Love your spouse (13:4)
- III. *Don't love your money\** (13:5-6) (*\*use your money to love God and others*)

## Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [Hebrews 13:1-3](#)

Brotherly love, (love for our church family) is expressed in hospitality (v2) and in care for those who are hurting (v3). Opening our hearts and homes to each other and the stranger is important for discipling (helping others follow Jesus). *Discipling*, because so many things in the Christian life are learned by example – we watch and imitate (see [Philippians 3:17](#), [1 Corinthians 4:16](#), [11:1](#)). Who are you looking to as an example of a godly spouse, employee, parent, etc.? Who are you opening your life and home to so they can see and learn by example? Don't think calling others to follow as arrogant, think of it as loving! No example is perfect...but that's part of what we're meant to show – Christ *is* perfect!

Hospitality helps *make strangers family*. Whether folks who are new to the church or members who remain on the fringes of a church community, reaching out to others helps fold them into our lives and church family. Hospitality also is important for evangelism. Jesus said we'll know who His disciples are by our love ([John 13:34-35](#)). By inviting friends, neighbors, co-workers, or other non-Christians into our homes, we can use the time with them to show them God's love and share God's word. What are ways you could show hospitality with the goal of loving and sharing the gospel with your neighbors? A BBQ, block party, simple meal, neighborhood watch, garage sale, lemonade stand...be creative!

Another way we show brotherly love is in our care for those who are hurting. This could include praying and caring for those who are in prison, *and* caring for those who are mistreated. If you're interested in learning more, you can look at Prison Fellowship ([www.prisonfellowship.org](http://www.prisonfellowship.org)).

What are ways God has been hospitable to you as a Christian? What difference does it make to know and feel God's love for us as we seek to love others? What are ways hospitality or caring for those who are hurting expresses practical love?

Additional reading: 1 Peter 4:9, Hebrews 2:17-18

\*One book we'd recommend on the topic of Christian hospitality is Rosario Butterfield's new book [\*The Gospel Comes with a House Key\*](#). On sale at the church bookstall!

## 2) Read [Hebrews 13:4](#)

As a picture of God's love for His bride, the church, marriage is meant to be held in honor. What are ways that we, whether single or married, can hold marriage in honor? What are the two prongs in the 'two-pronged' approach to the fight for purity and faithfulness? Why is it important to understand God's design for marriage as a *picture* rather than seeing it as the end-game reality which satisfies?

Additional reading: Ephesians 5:22-33, Psalm 42:1, Psalm 16:11

## 3) Read [Hebrews 13:5-6](#)

The problem with money is not money...we fall into danger when we *love money*. As Paul explains, "The *love of money* is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs" (1 Tim. 6:10). What does our passage offer as theological help to finding the contentment that can feel elusive at times? Are there ways you're tempted to love and trust money instead of God? How can a radical ordinary Christian generosity be helpful in combating the love of money

Additional reading: Matthew 6:21, 1 Timothy 6:17, Proverbs 18:10-11, 11:14

## **Prayer of Response**

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <http://firstbaptistchurchuppermarlboro-preview.cloversites.com/sermons>