

## Right Living Flows Out of Right Knowing 2021-07-04

### Hebrews 13:1-3

*Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.*

New Testament epistle pattern: 1st doctrine then application. Romans 1-11 doctrine; 12-16 application, Hebrews 1-12 doctrine, 13 application

- New Covenant grace is superior to Old Covenant law,
- Christology in Hebrews: Jesus superior to angels, Moses, Abraham, Aaron
  - Fully God/man, radiance of Father's glory, perfect High Priest & sacrifice, mediator of New Covenant, our redeemer, intercedes for us, sovereign King, creator sustainer/heir of all things, seated at Father's right hand,
    - Author, sustainer and finisher of our faith
- In Jesus Christ we are positionally perfect, loved children of God, heirs with Jesus.

Growing in knowledge of Word/truth results in transformed life of obedience/godliness.

- Out of believing doctrine revealed in Hebrews flows Holy Spirit empowered right living.
  - draw near God in faith, persevere, stir up others to love/good deeds, be brother's keeper and here love 1 another. Hebrews 13:1, John 1:12-13, 13:34-35
  - "Brotherly" Greek "Philadelphia" = natural love between brothers/sisters in family.

Next to faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, biblical love is supreme mark of a Christian.

- Biblical love: self-sacrificing, caring commitment, which shows in seeking highest good of one loved....description of Jesus' love for us on the cross.
  - 55 New Testament commands to "love" others. Matthew 22:37-39, Romans 13:8-10, Galatians 5:14

"love neighbor as self" not replace moral commands. Two sides of the same coin.

1 John 4:8

- Love provides motive for obeying commands/law, but law provides specific direction for exercising love.
  - Without commandments, how do we know what it means to harm/love neighbor?

Loving others the way Jesus loves us is possible because Christians are in Jesus & His Spirit is in us.

- Father gives strength to grow in our love for Jesus and others.
- Jesus unifies LEFC unique community and enables us to love one another/others....John Young example.

Brotherly love is more than feelings, produces tangible actions. Hebrews 3:2, Romans 12:13, 1 Peter 4:9

- General command to love brethren followed by specific applications of it. CULTIVATE/PRACTICE HOSPITALITY especially toward traveling Christians.

- “strangers” here could refer to Christians/lost. Galatians 6:10
  - plan hospitality or inconvenience/busyness gets in the way.

Others come to homes and receive hospitality. By contrast, the called leave homes, go to prisoners/needily/mistreated because of Christian testimony. Hebrews 13:3, Matthew 25:35-40

- Prisoner depended on family/friends for necessities...persecution coming!  
“Be mindful” all needy/mistreated.... compassion, empathy, sympathy
- Remember by reading, praying, supporting.... LEFC mission letter, Children’s Vision
  - When minister to needy, we are ministering to Jesus Christ Himself.

Right living flows out of right knowing. James 2:17, Ephesians 4:1, Mathew 5:16, Maclaren

“The world takes its notions of God most of all from those who say they belong to God’s family. They read us a great deal more than they read the Bible. They see us; they only hear about Jesus.” Alexander Maclaren

- Can love others the way Jesus loves us because of who Jesus is and who we are in Jesus
  - Brotherly love, expressed in hospitality, empathy, compassion is evidence of salvation, witness to world and brings glory to God.