



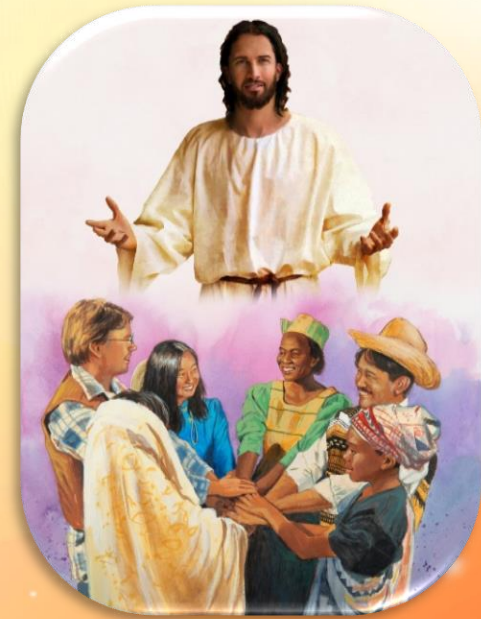
LET BROTHERLY LOVE CONTINUE

Lesson 13 for
March 26, 2022

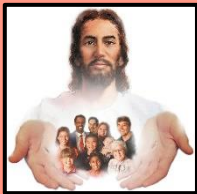
Paul finished his speech by giving some advice on daily Christian life.

How should we behave every day as our eyes are fixed on Jesus? What attitudes should we avoid, and which ones should we learn?

Paul encouraged us to begin preparing for eternal life today, “For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.” (Hebrews 13:14)



- ✔ Brotherly love (Hebrews 13:1-3, 15-16)
- ✔ Immorality and covetousness (Hebrews 13:4-6)
- ✔ The leaders (Hebrews 13:7, 17-18)
- ✔ The heresies (Hebrews 13:8-10)
- ✔ The path to follow (Hebrews 13:11-14)



BROTHERLY LOVE

"Let brotherly love continue." (Hebrews 13:1)

How can brotherly love be put into practice?

Paul shared three practical examples:

By being hospitable (v. 2)



This involves sharing what we have with others. Not only with people we know, but also with strangers. Paul reminded us that Abraham and Lot entertained angels.

By remembering the prisoners and the mistreated (v. 3)

Identifying ourselves with them, praying for them, and offering physical and emotional support.

By doing good and helping one another (v. 16)

Loving one another involves treating others the way we want to be treated.



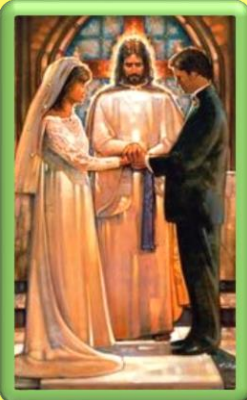
IMMORALITY AND COVETOUSNESS

“Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled [...] Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have.” (Hebrews 13:4-5)

There are two serious issues that threaten brotherly love: immorality and covetousness [“which is idolatry” (Col. 3:5)].

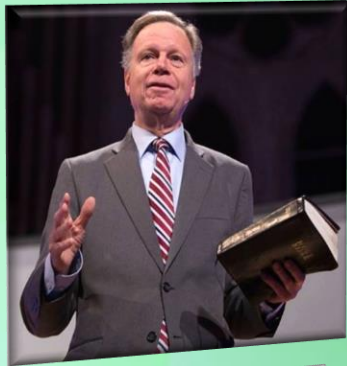
Extramarital sex breaks mutual trust and destroys family relationships. Our society may accept relationship types that are condemned by the Bible, but we must remember that “fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” (Heb. 13:4)

Covetousness also breaks mutual trust, because misers only seek their own good and do not care for others. They break the “golden rule” (Matthew 7:12).



"Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct." (Hebrews 13:7)

THE LEADERS



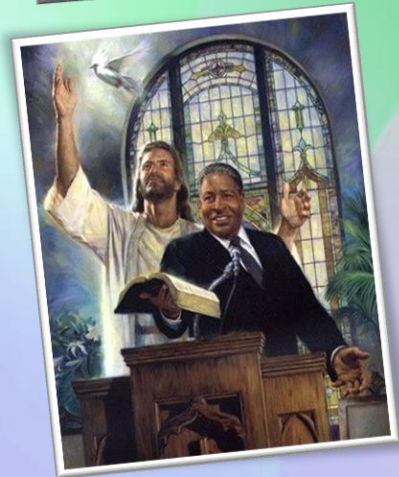
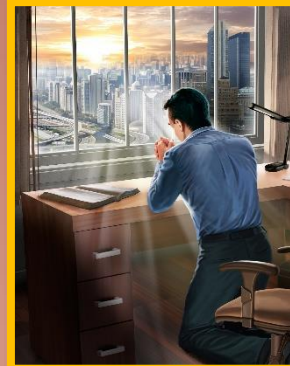
Paul encouraged us to imitate the leaders that share the Word of God with us. Not only to imitate them, but also to obey them (v. 17a).

They are assistant shepherds to the "great Shepherd of the sheep" (v. 20). They care for the wellness of each member and imitate Jesus in everything.



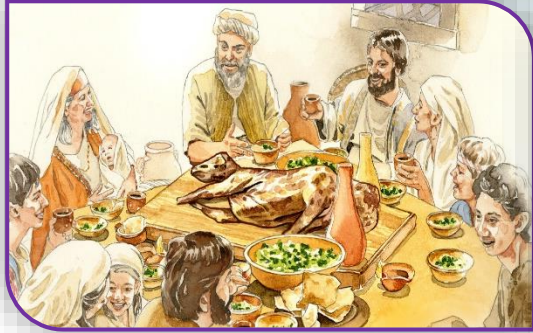
Joy emanates from the care and faithfulness of the leaders in combination with the emulation and obedience of the congregation (v. 17b).

This joy reflects both the joy of the pastors as they're accepted by the congregation, and their joy of bringing their congregation before God.



THE HERESIES

“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.” (Hebrews 13:9)



Establishing the heart by grace, not with foods?
How could foods be related to grace?

The Hebrews tended to seek God’s kingdom through rituals involving eating and drinking in certain moments or in a special way (Mr. 7:3; Rm. 14:17).

Paul mentioned the altar and the Tabernacle. It seems that they still believed in salvation by those rites (Heb. 13:10).

The only way to be saved is by God’s grace through the sacrifice of Jesus. Anything we try to add to God’s grace is just “foods which do not profit” and are contrary to the Gospel.





THE PATH TO FOLLOW

"Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach." (Heb.13:13)

Everything filthy, immoral, or despicable had to be thrown out of the camp. For example, the leftovers of some sacrifices (Heb. 13:11); organic waste (Dt. 23:13); lepers and the defiled (Nm. 5:2-3); blasphemers (Lv. 24:14).

Being thrown out of the camp was shameful. Jesus took that shame on Him by being crucified outside the camp (Heb. 13:12).



Paul reminded us that the path to God is a path of suffering and shame, as Jesus said in Matthew 16:24. By walking this path we turn our backs on a corrupted camp and walk towards a "continuing city" (Heb. 13:14).

“The union between Christ and His people is to be living, true, and unfailing, resembling the union that exists between the Father and the Son. This union is the fruit of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. All true children of God will reveal to the world their union with Christ and with their brethren. Those in whose hearts Christ abides will bear the fruit of brotherly love. They will realize that as members of God's family they are pledged to cultivate, cherish, and perpetuate Christian love and fellowship, in spirit, words, and action.”