

The Common Good

“The CODE” Series – Part 09

A 15 Minute Study Guide- Read Hebrews 13:1-6

1. In today’s society, *one’s privacy* reigns supreme and often times hinders interaction within our community. Why is showing hospitality to others both difficult, but necessary for Christians?
2. Describe an action that you can take to participate in the called-for ministries in verse 3:
3. How can a persuasive love “of money” prevent us from obeying verse 1-4?

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A Fuller Study Guide-

Connect question: Describe a time when you felt your volunteerism/service made a difference in the life of one other person.

Introduction: Growing up as a child, we often heard parents say things that we swore we would never say when the day came when we would be a parent. Things like: “*Do you think money grows on trees?*” or “*Stop crying before I give you something to cry about!*” Then the sad day comes... when that same, sad, and self-forbidden statement comes bellowing out of your mouth to overwhelm your child with parental righteousness and wisdom. Oops!

Growing up, what common clever piece of parental advice did you hear?

Perhaps one of the most damaging and confusing statements any parent might utter are the following: “*Do as I say, not as I do*” or “*Because I said so!*” It can be reasoned why it is best to avoid those two parental commands, yet it is those very instructions/directives that we often carry into adulthood. That is, we often say this is what we believe, but our actions say otherwise. Such behavior can be tagged as hypocrisy, deceitfulness, or phoniness and it ought not to be so among Christian beliefs.

The author of Hebrews wraps up his inspired thoughts on the supremacy and sufficiency of Christ’s sacrifice by reminding the readers those who have experienced the goodness of Christ will follow through with goodness toward others.

Read Hebrews 13:1-16

1 Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters. 2 Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it! 3 Remember those in prison, as if you were there yourself. Remember also those being mistreated, as if you felt their pain in your own bodies. 4 Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery. 5 Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." 6 So we can say with confidence, "The LORD is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?" 7 Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith. 8 Jesus Christ is the same

yesterday, today, and forever. 9 So do not be attracted by strange, new ideas. Your strength comes from God's grace, not from rules about food, which don't help those who follow them. 10 We have an altar from which the priests in the Tabernacle have no right to eat. 11 Under the old system, the high priest brought the blood of animals into the Holy Place as a sacrifice for sin, and the bodies of the animals were burned outside the camp. 12 So also Jesus suffered and died outside the city gates to make His people holy by means of His own blood. 13 So let us go out to Him, outside the camp, and bear the disgrace He bore. 14 For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come. 15 Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to His name. 16 And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God.

Discussion:

In verse 13:1 the author states we are to love others like a brother or sister loves. Discuss what this kind of love looks like and its implication.

Can you discuss a **memorable** experience when someone extended hospitality to you? In our society today, give practical examples of how we can extend "hospitality" to others?

Verse 13:3 invites us to "*step into the shoes*" of those who are imprisoned, oppressed, and mistreated. As you imagine yourself in such circumstances, how can others care for, love you, and serve you in a meaningful way?

According to Hebrews 13:5-6 our finances can have an impact on both our words and actions. How can the truths contained in these two verses affect our ability to love and care for others?

List both negative and positive ways that the level of our financial stewardship can make a difference in the lives of others:

Homework:

Read the following verses and after careful prayer, write out one action step for each verse that leads to obedience to its instructions or its principle for living life:

Heb. 13:13 So let us go out to Him, outside the camp, and bear the disgrace He bore.

Heb. 13:14 For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come.

Heb.13:15 Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to His name.

Heb. 13:16 And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God.