

- I) V1-6 INTRO: Let brotherly love continue
The writer has been giving a series of practical exhortations
- II) The first 11 chapters have contained a great amount of doctrine
He did this to establish their understanding of God and His ways
Beginning with Ch 12, the writer communicated **practical application** of doctrine
- III) Ch 13 begins with commands that relate to love, and its expression in society
He mentions its expression amongst **Christians**, for **strangers**, for **prisoners**, and **for those in need**

HE BEGINS WITH CHRISTIANS

- IV) V1 Let brotherly love continue
Brotherly love is the natural outflow of the Christian life
It reveals that we, **as believers**, understand that we are **family members**
- V) This is something that Paul also emphasized
1 Th 4:9 But concerning **brotherly love** you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another
- VI) Love for one another is the evidence that we have a relationship with God
It reveals **to us** that we truly have been saved
1 Jn 3:14 **We know** that we have passed from death to life **because** we love our brothers
1 Jn 4:7-8 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love **does not know** God for **God is love**
- VII) It is the birthmark of the believer
1) Jn 13:34-35 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.
Some people refuse to learn to love and trust, and end up living crippled lives
- VIII) Notice that he commands: **Let** brotherly love continue
This reveals that we can quench love by stifling and quenching the Spirit
Eph 4:32 Be kind one to another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another**, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.

- I) V2 **Do not forget** to entertain strangers for by so doing some have unwittingly Love's expression *for strangers*: Emphasis is on the primary concern of helping
- II) **This can refer to brothers and sisters in** the Lord, as well as general ministry Gal. 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good to all men, especially to those of the household of faith
- III) We see examples of this in scripture
Gen 18 Abraham entertained 3 strangers, 2 who turned out to be angels
Gen 19 Lot was visited by two angels before Sodom was judged
- IV) V2 Notice: For by so doing some have **unwittingly** entertained angels
Not that every time we help someone, it may be we are helping angels, but rather, that we will never know how far-reaching a simple act of generosity may go
- V) V3 **Remember the prisoners** as if chained with them and those who are mistreated
Love is practical: We must identify with those in need, and not forget them
- VI) Some Christians had been imprisoned for their faith in Jesus (Heb 10:32-34)
Paul was a recipient of this kind of love
2 Ti 1:16 The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain
HIS POINT
- VII) We should do for them whatever we would want done for us
Mt 7:12 In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you
Practical effect: It keeps us from the danger of Ivory Tower philosophizing
- VIII) V4 **Marriage** is honorable among all and the bed undefiled but fornicators and
While speaking of practical expressions of love, he includes marriage
Why: Because God established marriage as the place for two becoming one
- IX) All sexual acts are intended to be enjoyed within the bond of marriage vows
- X) In the eyes of man, promiscuity is permissible: In God's sight, it is always sin
It is destructive and unloving to engage in sexual activity outside of marriage
1 Th 4: 3-7 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in

sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.

II) What some call making love, God calls sin and actually says it results in judgment
Eph. 5:5-6 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person -- such a man is an idolater --has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. *Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.*

III) V5-6 Let your **conduct** be without **covetousness** and be content with such things
Some live for sexual satisfaction, pursuing physical conquests

IV) Others live for material possessions
Both are wrong and both will not completely satisfy our deepest inner longings

V) The love of money is a trap that brings bondage (this was once well known)
Material desires cannot bring ultimate satisfaction
Eccl 5:10 Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.

Pr 23:4 Do not overwork to be rich; because of your own understanding, cease. Will you set your eyes on that which is not? Riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away like an eagle toward heaven

Lu 12:15 A man's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses

HOW CAN YOU RESIST THESE SINS

VI) V5 I will never leave you nor forsake you: You have Jesus
No Christian can live effectively for the Lord if they suffer with covetousness
They will never have enough, and will never be satisfied

Pr 27:20 Just as Death and Destruction are never satisfied (completely filled; excess), so human desire is never satisfied.

VII) If we have the Lord, we have all we will ever need

Col 3:1-2 Since then you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not earthly things

Phil 4:11b I have learned, in whatever state I am, to be content.

- I) V7 **Remember those** who rule over you, **who have spoken the word of God** to you
AT THIS POINT
The writer has been exhorting the believers to love
They are to love each other, strangers, and prisoners
- II) Loving God and other produces pure lives that are free from materialism
These are practical ways of showing love for people
This is what the writer is now to expand on
- III) V7 Remember those **who rule over you**
Remember: Be mindful of, to call to mind; to hold in memory
WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT FOR THEM TO DO?
- IV) In the coming years, as persecution and struggles strike them, they must recall how their spiritual leaders have not only weathered the storms and attacks, but were victorious in the Lord
- V) V7 Because of this, they are to **remember their leaders**
They remember those who served the Lord before them, some who had died
This included the apostles, but referred to leaders in their local churches
- VI) They were to be remembered for three things
First: They are remembered because they **spoke the word to them**
- VII) This is something that is repeated in other passages
1 Th 5:12-13 We ask you, brothers, **to respect those** who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who **admonish** (instruct; warn) you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.
- VIII) They **faithfully** communicated God's Word to them, and should be honored
1 Timothy 5:17 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.
- IX) **Second:** Whose **faith follow** gives us insight into the power of a godly life
They lived faith filled lives, worthy of imitation because they lived out the gospel
1 Co 4:15-16 For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus, I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, **imitate me**

- I) Paul was a great example of faithful service to Jesus
Ac 20:18-20 When they arrived, he said to them: "*You know how I lived* the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews. You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.
- II) **Third:** Considering the outcome of their conduct
Considering: To observe carefully, and repeatedly: To look at, again and again
Look carefully at their lives, especially at its conclusion, at its fruit!
- III) Observe how they lived and how they closed a well-spent life
Are there regrets, sorrows, griefs?
- IV) V8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever
Leaders come and go, but the One to be followed always is Jesus
- V) He is the same **yesterday**
He is the mediator, who offered up prayers and petitions (5:7)
- VI) He is the same **today**
He is the One who today offers up prayers on our behalf (7:25)
- VII) He is the same **forever**
His priesthood never ceases (5:6, 6:20, 7:17, 21)
- VIII) V9 Do not be carried about with various and **strange** (unheard of) doctrines
Foreign teachings coming by way of traveling evangelists that began to appear
2 Co 11:13-15 Such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works
2 Pe 2:1 There were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who secretly shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.
- IX) Because this was occurring, the churches were warned to be discerning

- I) Early in church history false teachers infiltrated, bringing a changed gospel
Paul warned the church about this
Gal 1:6-7 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.
- II) The error he dealt with in this letter was adding the Law to Grace
This was resulting in legalism, undermining the grace of God
- III) Because false teachers were infiltrating, certain tests were produced
These were questions that would be asked to see if the teacher was real
- IV) One of the tests was the question: did Jesus come in the flesh
This was to battle Gnosticism, which emphasized secret knowledge for salvation
- V) One school of thought taught spirit was good and the physical was evil
Under docetic Gnosticism, Jesus only **appeared** to be human
This undermined the doctrine of the Incarnation and reality of Christ's suffering
- VI) It's teaching denied that Jesus was only **a way** to attain salvation, not *the way*
They taught that there were others, and would be even more in the future
- VII) John spoke of this in 2 Jn
2 Jn 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.
2 Jn 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him.
- VIII) Because of this, the writer warns about being **carried about** with foreign doctrines
These doctrines led to legalism, and food restrictions under the Law of Moses
- IX) Paul spoke of this to the Colossians
Col 2:21-22 "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!"? These will all perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings
- X) V9 For it is good that the heart be established *by grace* not with foods

- I) These false teachers intended to return them to Jewish dietary laws
1 Co 8:8 Food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, no better if we do
Ro 14:1-3 Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, **for God has accepted him.**
- II) V10 For we have *an altar* from which those who serve the Tabernacle have no altar? The **Cross of Jesus**, which to the Christian is **the place of Sacrifice**
- III) V10-12 those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat
On the Day of Atonement the blood of sacrifice was taken in the Holy of Holies
Portions of the sacrifice were burnt on the altar of burnt sacrifice
The rest was taken outside the camp and completely burned with fire
- IV) V11-12 For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the Jesus was sacrificed on Golgotha, *outside of the city walls of Jerusalem*
Jn 19:17 He, bearing His cross, **went out** to a place called *the Place of a Skull*, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha,
- V) V10 He is our Spiritual nourishment, because we receive Grace through Him
Jn 6:53-57 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you *eat the flesh* of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.
- VI) V13 Therefore **let us go forth** to Him outside the camp bearing His reproach
If Jesus died willingly for us, let us follow Him willingly suffering shame for Him
Mt 16:24-25 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
- VII) V14 For here we have **no continuing city** but we seek the one to come

- I) Heaven is our home; we are passing through as aliens and strangers on earth
Phil 3:12-14 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
- II) V15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God that is
Because we are saved, we will praise Him verbally and continually
Ps 34:1 I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.
1 Th 5:18 Give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus
- III) V16 But do not forget to do good and to share for with such sacrifices God is well
We do not just sing songs of praise to God, but also do good works
- IV) In a very real sense, we offer up our praise and our property
Gal 6:10 As we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.
Ac 2:44-45 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.