

## The New Covenant Part 9

Live Different

*Hebrews 13:7-25*

*Memory Verses: Hebrews 13:15*

### MANUSCRIPT

#### Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

We have a New Covenant in Jesus Christ. And this New Covenant gives a new promise, a new tabernacle, and a new sacrifice. This New Covenant gives us a new life. One which calls us to Draw Nearer to God, to Run the Race of God with endurance, and as we will see today, Live Differently for the world to see the way in Christ.

Let me ask you a question. What does it mean to live differently as a believer? How do we live out our faith day by day? The book of Hebrews has built it's case that Jesus is superior and that His New Covenant is supreme. And so, if Jesus truly is better and His New Covenant is necessary... then how are we to change the way we live our lives? Yes we draw near, yes we run the race... but how! What are the practicals? Good thing you asked because this message will tell you no less than 20 way you should live your life now that Christ has changed you! Look with me if you would at **Hebrews 13**.

The point is simple, **Living under the New Covenant means living different**. We must live differently, in the people we follow, in the way we worship, and in the way we work. We must live different as to look different. If our lives look the same as the world's, then why would the world want the New Covenant in Christ? The whole reason for the book of Hebrews is to encourage believers and non-believers alike that there is something special about Jesus and his church! The final argument is us. Look at the lives of those who follow Jesus and live according to his Covenant. Meaning... if the world wants something different, we need to be that difference. **We must live differently because a watching world longs for the way that works.**

#### Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need to see here is that we must... **Live Differently In Who You Follow**. Look again at **Hebrews 13:7-9, 17**. Again, the author implores us to remember. Remembrance implies respect. We follow faithful followers of God that we respect **vs.7**. **We are to remember our faithful leaders. Not just any leader, but godly and worthy leaders.** How do we determine leaders worthy of following? We are to follow those who speak the word. We don't want to follow motivational speakers. We don't want to follow slick mouthed celebrities who draw attention to themselves rather than what God has said. We

want to follow preachers who preach, not their own opinions, but preach the Word of God! We are called to follow those who have a faith worth imitating. We are asked to consider the way they live their lives. Not guys who simply talk about it but men who actually walk the talk. Men and women who are faithful to their spouses and their children. Men and women who refuse to chase money and are above reproach in their finances. And we are called to follow those who follow Jesus. We are to imitate their faith in Christ. As Paul reminded his followers, we are to follow people who follow Christ! Look at **1 Cor. 11:1**.

According to **vs.17** we are to obey and submit to these faithful leaders as they watch over your souls. Get this...a good leader is one who watches over your soul and finds joy in this ministry! The difference is clear. The world follows the rich, famous, and talented. The world follows celebrities and showmen, athletes and movie stars. And they follow them regardless of their moral character or their faith. But we follow people of a certain standard and quality and it makes us different.

But more than people, we are called to follow Jesus and his unchanging truth **vs.8**. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever! He is the lord, he is the truth, he is the way. We follow Him! **We follow Jesus. We follow his word, we follow his truth... and as men fail us, we recognize that Jesus never will.** And in following Christ, we flee from false teachers **vs.9**. Of course, for the Hebrews, they were being called away to follow a hybrid religion which combines Christianity and Judaism. They were being told that they can follow Christ as long as they cling to everything in the Old Covenant, including all the food laws and rituals. And while this may not seem that strange or off base... it is! Why? Because it says that you must trust in a form of works apart from simple faith in Christ. Its just like saying that you must trust in Christ and also be baptized or you must trust in Christ and speak in tongues. Or you must trust in Christ also go to confession or take the Lord's supper. We trust in Christ and nothing else... full stop!!!!!! Stop following after false teachers that tell you, you must do something aside from faith. **We must live differently because a watching world longs for the way that works.** Faith in Christ is the only way!

We are also called to **Live Differently In How You Worship**. Look again at **Hebrews 13:10-16, 18-19**. We focus on relationship more than ritual **vs.10-13**. Again, we eat from Jesus, they can't because they haven't put their faith in him. They must eat according to their law. We worship him outside of the religious obligations of the law, we worship him through faith. But we also worship him through sacrifice **vs.13-16**. **We are willing to sacrifice ourselves for Christ physically, bearing the same reproach he endured. We are willing to persevere as he did, through physical and emotional pain. We are willing to sacrifice a physical home for a spiritual one. We are willing to sacrifice safety and popularity as we speak his name**

boldly and acknowledge him in the world. We sacrifice financially as we share our wealth with those in need and the church. And we sacrifice our time and resources for all kinds of ministry and service. These sacrifices are pleasing to God.

And we worship Jesus through prayer **vs.18-19**. Of course we've talked about this a lot this year. As way of recap, we must intercede for others through spiritual requests. The author is asking for purity, clear conscience, and honorable actions. To live right! That's a good prayer request. But we don't just pray for spiritual requests. We also pray for the physical requests of our brothers and sisters. Notice that the author wants to be reunited with his people. **The way we worship matters. We worship through faith in Christ alone. We worship by living for him sacrificially. We worship him through a lifestyle of prayer.** This is a foreign concept to many in the world. But you can be different! You should be different. Show the world the true way to live! **We must live differently because a watching world longs for the way that works.**

**Live Differently In How You Work.** Look again at **Hebrews 13:20-21**. We work differently than the world. The world works for themselves... we work for others. Our work could also be called ministry! Christians minister! How so? We minister as we are empowered by the peace of Christ. We minister as we are led by the great shepherd. We minister as we are being equipped by our sovereign God. Through the power of his blood. Through the new covenant. In this way we are equipped to do good works. We are different because we are trained differently. When we are trained and equipped for ministry within the church, we will do good works which will put the focus on the goodness of our Lord. We will be equipped to do his will. In the daily grind of life, Christians minister. While other people are working jobs... we see these jobs as opportunities to pour into people's lives and give them Christ.

One of the greatest man I've ever known was not a preacher. He sold insurance. Everyday he would sell car insurance or house insurance or life insurance...or a bundle of all them together. He would see client after client. His firm was very successful and brought in a lot of money. But he wasn't rich! He gave most of his money away. And when he was selling insurance he didn't spend most of his time talking about insurance... he spend most of his time talking about Jesus. Though he wasn't a preacher or minister... he was the most effective servant of God I've ever known! **We must live differently because a watching world longs for the way that works.**

## Application

The New Covenant means everything has changed! Jesus is our unshakable anchor. Because of what he has done for us and because of

who He is, we must not live like the world. We must live differently! Different in the way we follow, worship, and work! So, are you living differently? Or are you running the race with the same old habits, same old heart? It's costly, It's challenging, but it's also joy-filled and faithful. Jesus is here to empower you to live differently! You can't live differently on your own... you can only live differently because of the power of Christ in you. He's written his law on your heart. He's called you to a new life.

## Conclusion

Look again at **vs.15**. Let us always and forever, never ending, never ceasing, offer up sacrifice and praise to our God! Let our lips always acknowledge that he is our lord and savior! In this way we stand apart and show the world a different way to live. Not a way, but the way!

When I was a kid, I loved summer nights in the country. You'd walk outside and see one firefly—just one—and it would catch your eye. One tiny light in a sea of darkness. And then, a few more. Before long, the yard would be full of them—dancing, glowing, completely different from the night around them. Now here's what's amazing: fireflies don't shine because they're trying to impress anyone. They shine because that's what they were created to do. It's built into them. It's in their design. That's what Hebrews 13 is saying to us. If you're in Christ, you were made to be different. You were born again to shine in a dark world—through the way you love, the way you follow, the way you worship, and the way you live every day. But here's the hard part: You can't shine and blend in at the same time. "We must live differently because the world is dark—and Jesus has made us light. Not weird for weird's sake. Not loud for attention. But different for His glory. The world doesn't need more noise. It needs light. So shine. Be the one that lives different."