
Hebrews 13:1 "Let brotherly love continue." Why would the author of Hebrews remind the believers of this? To guard from:

1. The attacks from the world and
2. Attacks and division from within the Church

1. The World

Documented acts of anti-church hostility include attempted bombings, shootings, satanic vandalism, and numerous attacks based on anti-Christian bias due to support for abortion or extreme transgender ideology. Some constituted unpunished election interference. The report identified 915 acts of hostility against churches between January 2018 and November 2023, including:

- 709 acts of vandalism
- 135 completed or attempted arsons
- 32 bomb threats
- 22 gun-related incidents
- 61 other incidents, including assault, threats, and interruption of worship services.

These acts of "religious intimidation" send the message "that churches are not wanted in the community or respected in general," Arielle Del Turco, who authored the report, told The Washington Stand. "Regardless of the motivations of these crimes, everyone should treat churches and all houses of worship with respect and affirm the importance of religious freedom for all Americans."

2. From Within the Church

Matthew 24:10-12 "And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹² And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold."

Galatians 5:13-15 "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another."



1 Timothy 4:1-2 “Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ² through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,”

2 Timothy 3:1-5 “But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.”

Mark 13:12-13 “And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. ¹³ And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

LET'S TAKE INVENTORY

1 John 4:20 “If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.”

- ▶ **The time for complacency is done, we have to go deep and evaluate ourselves.**

John 13:34-35 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

- ▶ **We are a walking advertisement, either for Jesus or not.**

1 John 4:11 “Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

- ▶ **This is His heart.**

Romans 12:10 “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”

- ▶ **Listen for the prompting of the Holy Spirit!**

Romans 13:8 “Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.”

- ▶ **The Law is simply an instruction manual. The basis is *love*.**



1 John 4:7 “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.”

- ▶ **The more we know God the more we love Him and the more we love Him, the more we love one another.**

Hebrews 10:24 “Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.”

BROTHERLY LOVE IN ACTION

1. Forgive
2. Help plan a church event
3. Volunteer for a ministry
4. Do favors for each other
5. Spend some time in prayer
6. Take a meal
7. Write a letter
8. Check in on someone
9. Practice hospitality

You know I get busy in my life and don't take the time to connect with my brothers and sisters as I should. The last thing I want is for my relationships with people to die from neglect. Please help me make the time to spend with them and love them well.

*In your name, I pray
Amen.*

