

TEXT SUMMARY

It was customary to close an epistle (a formal letter) with an epilogue containing various moral exhortations and persona greetings. Our text, <u>Hebrews 13:4-6</u>, continues with two more exhortations, both of which deal with matters that concern us still today: sex and money.

INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

- 1. The exhortation concerning marriage is complex.
 - It has two parts. What are they?
 - It includes a warning. What is that warning?
- The exhortation concerning the love of money is also complex, including not only a negative but also a call and response from Scripture.
 - What is the two-fold exhortation?
 - What is the call and response?

DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

- 1. What does it mean to hold marriage "in honor"?
- 2. What does it mean for the marriage bed to be "undefiled"?
- 3. Verses 5-6 deal with several topics that might not seem to be related at first glance: money, contentment, God's faithfulness, and fearless faith. How do these verses connect these four topics?

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DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

- 1. Ours is an eroticized culture, preoccupied with sex and romance. That makes it difficult for us to think about sex, romance, and marriage without the warping effect of what Tim Keller called "apocalyptic romance;" that is, we are trained by pop culture to assume that marriage and sex will always be the ecstatic union portrayed in romance novels and movies and TV. The result is that sexual passion seems more important to us than marriage.
 - Do you know a couple who treat their marriage with honor? What is it about their words and behavior that makes you think that their marriage is important to them?
 - A popular storyline in popular media is the
 miserable woman or man caught in a loveless
 marriage who finds true love with someone else.
 As we follow that storyline, we are encouraged to
 sympathize with adultery, which seems not only
 desirable but also inevitable. We are rarely shown
 the devastating consequences of their actions.
 How can a man or woman in a troubled marriage
 avoid going down that road to destruction?
- 2. **The love of money is a given.** After all, who *doesn't* want to be a millionaire? Both our text and Paul's first letter to Timothy counterpose the love of money with contentment.
 - How does our text illustrate the connection between contentment and trust in God? How have you seen this truth born out in your life or the lives of others?
 - Read Paul's extended discussion of the dangers of the love of money in 1 Tim 6:6-9. How have you seen the love of money warp and destroy lives?