

**Becoming a Family of Royal Priests, Or How Love One Another in God's Kingdom
Hebrews 13:1–25**

Hebrews 1:1–3	Son + King + Priest
Hebrews 1–2	Son
Hebrews 3–4	Moses / Rest
Hebrews 5–7	Priest
Hebrews 8–10	New Covenant
Hebrews 10–11	Saints
Hebrews 12–13	Son + Heirs + Priests
12:1–18	Sons
12:19–29	Royal Heirs
13:1–19	Priests

Hebrews 13: An Epilogue

Instructions for Brotherly Love (vv. 1–6)

Instructions re: Leaders (vv. 7–19)

Benediction (vv. 20–21)

Closing (vv. 22–25)

Hebrews 12–13

You are Sons . . . Who are in the Kingdom . . . Now live like Priests

We should keep our eyes on the priestly motif of the passage

Evidence for Priesthood ??

vv. 1–6 – “Brotherly love” – Psalm 133:1

- There are no explicit references to the priesthood or cultic system
- There are good reasons for seeing priestly themes in these verses

vv. 7–9– Compare two kinds of priests

- The pastors who taught you the Word (v. 7)
- The priests who sacrificed your animals (v. 9)

v. 10 – There’s an altar that the priests cannot eat at!!

v. 11 – High priest / sacrifice / outside camp = burnt offering (cf. Lev 4:12; 6:11; 10:4, 5; 16:27)

v. 12 – Jesus Priesthood (at the center)

v. 13 – Priestly context in combination with vv. 11–12

v. 15 – Sacrifice of praise

v. 16 – Sacrifices

v. 20–21 – Benediction

Arrangement

Brotherly Love: Life in the Land (vv. 1–6)

You who have become sons are now living in the kingdom.

So what does that look like?

(1) It looks like Israel entering the Promised Land

(2) It looks like fulfilling the Law

- Brotherly Love (Psalm 133)
- Hospitality (Genesis 18)
- Mercy on Prisoners (Heb. 10:34; Matthew 25:36)
- Purity (1 Thessalonians 4:6; 1 Timothy 5:1–2)
- Contentment (Deuteronomy 18:1–7)
- Trust
 - Deuteronomy 31:6 or Joshua 1:5
 - Psalm 118:6

Priestly Service

Leaders (vv. 7)

Jesus Christ (v. 8)

New Covenant Worship – A New Altar (vv. 9–10)

Outside the Camp (v. 11)

Jesus and His People – Outside the Gate (v. 12)

Outside the Camp (v. 13)

New Covenant Worship – A New City (v. 14)

His Name (v. 15)

Leaders (vv. 17)

Prayerful Transition

Pray for Us (vv. 18–19)

We Pray for You (vv. 20–21)

Final Thoughts (vv. 22–25)

The New Priesthood (Hebrews 13:7–17)

Leaders (vv. 7)

Jesus Christ Unchanging (v. 8)

New Covenant Worship – A New Altar (vv. 9–10)

Outside the Camp (v. 11)

Jesus and His People – Outside the Gate (v. 12)

Outside the Camp (v. 13)

New Covenant Worship – A New City (v. 14)

His Name Ever Worthy of Praise (v. 15–16)

Leaders (vv. 17)

What do we learn about the new priesthood?

1. Leaders (v. 7) – Speak the word of God / examine their lives / imitate their faith

- a. There may have been some conflict between church and leaders
- b. True leaders teach / preach / offer the Word
- c. We need role models – the word is the key
- d. Some leaders teach false doctrine; others true – **how can you tell?**

2. Jesus Christ (v. 8)

- a. Leaders are seasonal; Jesus is forever (v. 8)
- b. Under the Old and New Covenants; Jesus is the same
- c. Yet, there is a distinct change

3. Grace > Food (v. 9)

- a. The OC is strange teaching
- b. What does he say about food laws?
- c. Do food laws have relevance today?
- d. How does the gospel define our food law? – Think Lord's Table

4. New Altar (v. 10)

- a. What is the relationship between eater and altar? – 1 Corinthians 10:18
- b. What's the context in 1 Corinthians 10:18
- c. What altar does he have in mind?
 - i. Could be Lord's Table, but "Altar" is never used that way in the NT – our church does not have an altar
 - ii. Most Protestants see "Altar" in relationship to cross of Christ
 - iii. I don't know if we need to draw hard and fast line – the once-for-all sacrifice is represented now in bread and drink
- d. Importantly, access to the altar means we are the priests of God

5. Outside the camp (v. 11, 12, 13)

- a. What sacrifice is burned outside the camp?
 - i. Day of Atonement (16:27)
 - ii. Burnt Offering (Lev 4:12; 6:11)

- b. I take it v. 11 recalls the Old Covenant system; v. 12–13 contrasts
 - i. Bodies of animals / high priest / burned outside camp (v. 11)
 - ii. Jesus fulfills all of this – he is the center of the section (v. 12)
 - iii. The invitation is to go to him (v. 13)
 - iv. The judgment of God has come upon the temple / OC . . . for as Jesus (God) goes outside the camp; his presence departs . . . and he is offered at the gate!

- c. What was the significance of the gate?
 - i. It may be associated with the place of the sacrifice (v. 12)

 - ii. Clearly, it is an invitation to go with Christ and to leave behind those who cannot eat from the altar (v. 11)

6. New City (v. 14)

- a. Where have we seen this theme before?
 - i. Hebrews 11:10, 16
 - ii. Hebrews 12:18–29

- b. How do we participate in that city today?
 - i. Priest – Christ is a greater high priest
 - ii. Covenant – He’s brought a better covenant
 - iii. Altar / Sacrifice – his altar has purified the city once and for all
 - iv. Temple – as we abide in him, we enjoy his food

- c. Notice how this verse bleeds into v. 15 . . . Through him

7. Worship of his name (v. 15–16)

- a. Where did we first see “name” language? (1:4)
- b. What was the response to the name?
- c. What is our response? – Praise and Service → vv. 1–6

8. Leaders (v. 17)

- a. Does this tell us more what’s going on?
- b. What do we learn about leaders? About members?
- c. How do you bring leaders joy? – Don’t Groan (v. 17 = James 5:7–11) Brotherly Love

Brotherly Love

Brotherly Love: Life in the Land (vv. 1–6)

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 - Psalm 118:6

How does suffering impact our brotherly love?

How does our position in Christ help us treat one another with brotherly love?

So what do we need to do to fulfill this calling?

Fraternal Priesthood

- 1 [1] LET BROTHERLY LOVE continue.
- 2 [2] DO NOT NEGLECT to show hospitality to strangers,
for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.
- 3 [3] REMEMBER those who are in prison,
as though in prison with them,
and those who are mistreated,
since you also are in the body.
- 4 [4] LET MARRIAGE BE HELD in honor among all, and
[5] LET the marriage bed BE UNDEFILED
\ for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.
- 5 [6] KEEP your life free from love of money, and
[7] BE CONTENT with what you have,
for he has said,
"I will never leave you nor forsake you."
- 6 So we can confidently say,
"The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

Priestly Service

7 [1] REMEMBER your **LEADERS** = those who spoke to you the word of God.
[2] CONSIDER the outcome of their way of life, and
[/:] IMITATE their faith.

8 **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

9 DO NOT BE LED AWAY by diverse and strange teachings,
for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace,
not by foods,
\ which have not benefited those devoted to
them.

10 We have an altar
from which those who serve the **tent** have no right to eat.

11 \ For the bodies . . . are burned **outside** the camp.
of those animals
whose blood is brought
into the holy places
by the high priest
as a sacrifice for sin

12 \ So Jesus also suffered **outside** the gate
in order to sanctify the people
through his own blood.

13 Therefore

let us go to him **outside** the camp and
bear the reproach he endured.

14 \ For here we have no lasting city,
but we seek the **city** that is to come.

15 Through him then
let us continually offer up
\ a sacrifice of praise
\ to God,
that is, \ the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

16 DO NOT NEGLECT to do good and
to share what you have,
\ for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

17 OBEY your **LEADERS** and
SUBMIT to them,
\ for they are keeping watch over your souls,
LET them DO this with joy and
not with groaning,
\ for that would be of no advantage to you.

18 Pray for us,
\ for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things.

19 I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner.

²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

²² I appeal to you, brothers, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly. ²³ You should know that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom I shall see you if he comes soon. ²⁴ Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those who come from Italy send you greetings. ²⁵ Grace be with all of you.