



The Book of Hebrews **Faith and Love** *The Lord is my helper...*

The Bible is full of expressions and definitions of love. We know that “God is love.” But on a practical level, how does love work and what value should

we place on love? The preacher gives us four value expressions of love as part of his closing comments in the book of Hebrews.

REACHING OUT

A. Be Loving Heb 13:1-2 Value ‘Love’

There are two aspects to valuing love: One is to our brothers and sisters in the Lord and the other to strangers—all others.

(a) **Brotherly love:** We know that God’s love is ‘agape’ love and that we should love other’s with God’s agape love. Love here is ‘phileo’ brotherly love, ‘Philadelphia’ love. Besides loving others because of God’s love—I love other’s because I love loving others.

(b) **Dinner with an angel:** This is relational evangelism at its best. To entertain means to have a spirit of ‘hospitality’ when it comes to those outside the Body of Christ (the Church). As with Abraham (*Gen 18*) you never know who is coming to dinner!

Loving those in and outside the Church is a core value of those who love Jesus. How does this value work out in your life?

B. Be Caring Heb 13:3 Value ‘Care’

The value of caring for others also has two aspects: To those in prison and those who are abused.

(a) **The prisoners:** Specifically this referred to those in prison because of their faith. The Hebrews had forgotten about the many believers that were suffering in prison. By extension—we can also reach out to those who are in prison by praying for them and ministering to them through programs like Narrow Way.

(b) **The abused:** Again...the specific admonition is to care for those who have been abused because of their faith in Christ. We do not have to look very far inside and outside the Church to find those who have been abused in our world.

**The value of caring is best explained by the Good Samaritan of Luke 10:30-37.
Let us reach out today to those who are hurting.**

REACHING IN

C. Be Holy Heb 13:4 Value ‘Holiness’

The first two ‘values of love’ had to do with reaching out to others.

The last two have to do with our own commitment and walk with Christ.

(a) **To be honorable:** The general subject here is moral purity. The preacher uses ‘marriage’ as a benchmark for purity. What you think about marriage will often reveal your concept of moral purity. It is no wonder that ‘marriage’ has been one of the main targets of the enemy of our soul. It is becoming the norm to live together a number of years before marrying—or not even marrying at all. State by State in the U.S. legislators are redefining marriage as no longer between a man and woman.

**Paul says in Gal 5:16, “Walk in the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”
Let’s use the admonition in this verse as a call to Walking in the Spirit.**

D. Be Content Heb 13:5-6 Value ‘Contentment’ 1 Joh 2:15; 2 Tim 4:10 Demas drifted before he deserted! *Here is the secret to living in peace and power: Contentment*

(a) **The Lord is my helper:** Love of material things or love God—where is your heart? The basis for our ‘contentment’ is that we are sustained by God Himself.

**“But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” Phil 4:19
“I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Heb 13:5 (See Joshua 1:5)**

As a result I can say with complete confidence:

“The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What Can man do to me?” Heb 13:5 (From Psalm 118:6)

Hebrews 13:1–6 (NKJV)
1 Let brotherly love continue.
2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.

3 Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also.

4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

6 So we may boldly say:
“The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear.
What can man do to me?”

