Hebrews 13 - Lesson 1

Hebrews 13:1-25 Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also. **v1-3**

Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. 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.” So we may boldly say: “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” **v4-6**

Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them. **v7-9**

We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. **v10-14**

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. **v15-16**

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably. 19 But I especially urge you to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. **v17-19**

Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. **v20-21**

And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words. Know that our brother Timothy has been set free, with whom I shall see you if he comes shortly. Greet all those who rule over you, and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you. Grace be with you all. Amen. **v22-25**

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Hebrews 13:1-3 Let **brotherly love** continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also.

1. **The writer tells us to let what kind of love continue? Why use word continue?**

2. **What is brotherly love and why make a distinction concerning love?**

BROTHERLY LOVE: (philadelphia), G5360. Love of brothers, **brotherly affection**.
Root 1: (philos / phileō), G5384 / G5368. Friend; to be fond of, **to have affection for**.
Root 2: (adelphos), G80. Brother. literally "**from the same womb"**
In Greek, philadelphia described the **affection between blood siblings**.

3. **How did we become siblings? Who is our only parent (Father)?**

John 1:10-13 He (The Word) was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He **gave the right to become children of God**, to those who believe in His name: **who were born**, not of blood [Adam], nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God**.

4. **Many of us were not born of the same womb, but whose blood saves all of us?**

Rev 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and **washed us from our sins in His own blood**, **1Jn 1:7** …If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the **blood of Jesus Christ** His Son cleanses us from all sin.

5. **While the blood of Jesus saved us, what family "DNA" connects us (believers)?**

Mat 1:18 Now the **birth of Jesus Christ** was as follows: After…Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was **found with child of the Holy Spirit**.
Luke 1:35 And the angel…said to her, "The **Holy Spirit will come upon you**, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, **that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God**.

John 3:5-6,8 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is **born of the Spirit is spirit**…The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. **So is everyone who is born of the Spirit**."

Galatians 4:28-30 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are **children of promise**. But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him **who was born according to the Spirit**, even so it is now. **Ezekiel 36:26-27** I will give you a new heart and **put a new spirit within you**; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **I will put My Spirit within you** and cause you to walk in My statutes,….

1 Corinthians 12:13 For **by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body**—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

Ephesians 4:4-5 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

6. Did you know there were different meaning for the word love (brotherly)?

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, **love** your wives, just as Christ also **loved** the church and gave Himself for her …

7. What is the most important kind of love a husband should have for his wife? Why?

LOVE: (agapē / agapaō), G26 / G25: Self-giving, willed love that acts for the **good of the other**, **whatever the feelings**. **259 times in NT**.

LOVE: (phileō / philia), G5368 / G5373: Affection, fondness, friendship, intimate, love between those who are close. **26 times in NT.**

LOVE: (erōs), Passionate, desiring love; (often romantic or physical). Not in NT.

8. Why don't we make a distinction when we use the word love? Min / Max impact?

9. What is Affection? Fondness? Friendship? Intimacy?

AFFECTION: A feeling of liking and caring for someone: tender **attachment.**
FONDNESS: Tender affection [TENDER: expressing the **softer emotions].**
FRIENDSHIP: State of being **attached to another by affection.**
INTIMACY: Close familiarity, communion; **nearness in friendship**.

10. Should we have brotherly love for the people of this world? Why?

James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that **friendship [phileō]** with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a **friend [phileō]** of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

John 15:19 If you were of the world, the **world would love [phileō] its own**. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

Matthew 10:37 He who loves **[phileō]** father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves **[phileō]** son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

11. For whom is our brotherly love reserved?

John 21:15-17 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love **[agapē]** Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love **[phileō]** You.**"** He said to him, "Feed My lambs." He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love **[agapē]** Me?**"** He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love **[phileō]** You.**"** He said to him, "Tend My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love **[phileō]** Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love **[phileō]** Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love **[phileō]** You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.

12. Based on John 21, How should we love Jesus and the Body of Christ?

13. If our love for the Body of Christ were just brotherly, is there a flaw with that?

14. What is the difference between agapē love and phileō love?

15. Agapē love is committed to what [thought and action]?

16. People who claim to love believers must live that love out how?

1 John 4:19-21 We love Him because He first loved us. **If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar;** for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that **he who loves God must love his brother also**.

1Jn 3:16-18 By this we know love, because Jesus laid down His life for us. And we also **ought to lay down our lives for the brethren**. But whoever has this world's goods, & sees his brother in need, & **shuts up his heart from him**, **how does the love of God abide in him**? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed & in truth.

17. What does it mean to shut up your heart from someone?

SHUT UP HEART [1Jn 3:16-18]:

1. Withhold compassion,
2. close yourself [heart] off to believer,
3. refuse to help a member of God's family; despite having the resources to do so.

18. Is shutting up your heart towards God's person godly? Imitating who?

Hebrews 13:2 Do not forget to entertain [show hospitality] strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.

19. Do not forget to _____ strangers?

A. Forget B. Hate C. Marry D. Entertain

20. What does it mean to entertain someone?

ENTERTAIN: To show hospitality, host people, or provide them with food, drink, and a pleasant time in your home or at a public venue.

21. In today's world, does entertaining have to be done at your home?

22. What do you need to be able to entertain a stranger?

23. What is a stranger?

STRANGER: Person whom **you do not know**, have **never met**, or are **not familiar with**.

1. A person **outside of your circle** of family, friends, and acquaintances**.**
2. A person who is **new to a specific town**, region, or environment**.**
3. A person who is **not part of a particular group**, community, or household**.**

24. If you're thinking of entertaining a stranger, what should you do first? Why?

Pro 4:7 Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore **get wisdom**. And in all your getting, get understanding. **Mat 10:16,7:15** Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore **be wise** as serpents and harmless as doves…**Beware** of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

Hebrews 13:2 Do not forget to entertain [show hospitality] strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.

25. Is God talking about entertaining just anyone? Hebrews 13:1 context.

26. By entertaining believers who else might we end up entertaining?

27. What does unwittingly mean?

UNWITTINGLY: Doing something without knowing, planning, or realizing it.

28. Have you ever done something unwittingly?

Genesis 19:1-5 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and **wash your feet**; then you may rise early and **go on your way**." And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square." But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. And they called to Lot and said to him, "**Where are the men** who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally."

29. Did Lot or the men of the city think these were angels?

Hebrews 13:3 Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also.

30. Is the writer referring to any prisoner [context of verse 1]?

31. The writer says to remember them how? Why say it that way?

32. Why were many of these people in prison?

Acts 8:3 As for Saul, he **made havoc of the church**, entering every house, and **dragging off men and women, committing them to prison**.

33. How were these prisoners being treated [Heb 13:3]?

34. How did the writer connect the prisoner's plight to the reader's [empathy]?

35. Who are the prisoners for Christ today? Where are many of them located?

36. How does Jesus identify with His family in prison?

Matthew 25:36-40 I was in prison and **you came to Me**.' "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You… **in prison, and come to You**?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as **you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me**.'

37. How should we identify with our brothers & sisters around this world?

38. Why should we identify with our brothers & sisters suffering and being blessed?

Acts 9:1-5 Then Saul, still **breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord**, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "**Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me**?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "**I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting**."

39. What can we do to help our imprisoned / persecuted brothers and sisters?

Top 5: Specific Types of Persecution - Open Doors World Watch List 2026
Worldwide, 388 million Christians face high levels of persecution.

1. North Korea (score 97)
- Execution of Christians, sometimes with their families
- Forced labor camps: an estimated 50,000 to 70,000 Christians are thought to be held in them, and families are sent too

2. Somalia (score 94)
- Killing on the spot when faith is discovered, by militants or by the person's own family
- Al-Shabaab hunting church leaders to eliminate them
- Illegal to convert

3. Yemen (score 93)
- Arrests and disappearances: more than 50 believers were arrested in early 2026
- Torture and imprisonment in Houthi detention, plus beatings and job loss
- Death sentence for apostasy under Islamic law for converts
- Family punishment: converts can be disowned, disinherited, divorced, or killed
- Churches closed, bombed, or seized by militia groups,…

4. Sudan (score 92)
- Church buildings bombed, looted, occupied, and destroyed…
- Church leaders abducted, detained, and killed
- Displacement and hunger: the civil war has displaced nearly 10 million people
- Earlier Open Doors reports cite rape, kidnapping, and looting against church

5. Eritrea (score 90)
- House raids on unregistered churches
- Arrest of church leaders, with beatings, imprisonment, and torture
- Indefinite detention without trial in terrible conditions
- Intense surveillance of suspected members of unregistered churches