

Study of Hebrews #66
“The Life of Faith: Loving Others”
Text: Hebrews 13:1-3

I. Introduction and review

1. People of faith listen to God attentively (12:25-26).
2. People of faith thank God constantly (12:28a).
3. People of faith worship God acceptably (12:28b).

II. People of faith love their brothers and sisters (v. 1).

III. People of faith love their neighbors as themselves.

1. By showing hospitality to strangers (v. 2)
2. By remembering prisoners and the mistreated (v. 3)

IV. Conclusion – a final word

QUOTES

1. Al Mohler:

- *The gospel isn't merely fire insurance. The gospel is Christ's abundant mercy saving us from the holy wrath we rightfully deserve. Remembering that God is a consuming fire stokes our reverence and awe of him and reminds us of the severe and eternal consequences of failing to turn to him in faith and repentance. We must not fail as the Israelites did. We must persevere until the end.*

- *Faith in Christ makes us family. Thus, “let brotherly love continue” is a sweet exhortation. It insinuates that this distinct love is already there among the members of this congregation, so the plea is that it would continue.*
- *It’s to our shame as Christians that we fail to be hospitable. We are called to show hospitality to everyone, even to strangers.*

2. Kent Hughes:

The implication is clear: what we think about God has everything to do with our relationship to each other and with the world. For example, this logic is built into the very structure of the Ten Commandments. The first four are intensely vertical and theological, followed by six that are intensely horizontal and ethical. This is why worship is so important—because a proper grasp of God will guide our footsteps in the world.

3. Stuart Scott:

One should be careful to not mix unbiblical “feelings” with the term “love.” God’s type of love is primarily an act of obedience – a command that believers must obey... Like Jesus’ love for us, our love for one another should be unconditional. If a believer’s love is conditional, what good will it be? If love is conditional, one is only seeking to serve self.

4. George Whitefield:

My honored friend and brother... hearken to a child who is willing to wash your feet. I beseech you, by the mercies of God in Christ Jesus our Lord, if you would have my love confirmed toward you.... Why should we dispute, when there is no possibility of convincing? Will it not, in the end, destroy brotherly love, and insensibly take from us that cordial union and sweetness of soul, which I pray God may always subsist between us? How glad would the enemies of our Lord be to see us divided.... Honored sir, let us offer salvation freely to all by the blood of Jesus, and whatever light God has communicated to us, let us freely communicate to others.

5. The Apology of Aristides:

If they hear that any of their number is imprisoned or oppressed for the name of their Messiah, all of them provide for his needs, and if it is possible that he may be delivered, they deliver him. If there is among them a man that is poor or needy, and they have not an abundance of necessaries, they fast two or three days that they may supply the needy with their necessary food.

6. Simon Kistemaker:

The admonitions to extend a helping hand to the stranger, the traveler, the prisoner, and the sufferer actually are exhortations to fulfill the command to “love your neighbor as yourself.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

- **Heb. 1:2; Heb. 2:1-3; Gal. 6:10**
- **Lev. 19:18; Rom. 12:10; 1 Thess. 4:9-10; 1 Pet. 1:22-23; 1 Jn. 2:10-11; 1 Thess. 3:12**
- **Rom. 12:13; 1 Pet. 4:9**
- **Gen. 18; Jud. 6; Jud. 13**
- **Matt. 25:39, 43; Heb. 10:32-24; Rom. 13:9; GAL. 5:14; James 2:8**
- **Matthew 22:36-40**