

THE BOOK OF
HEBREWS

A Call to Faithful Perseverance

Character Matters
Who We Are and How We Live
Hebrews 13:1-10

Christians have not always presented a pretty picture to the world.

Too often we have failed to show the beauty of our love, the beauty of our Christ, the holiness of our God and the world has turned away. Is there then a way to make the world look again—this time at true Christianity? Must we Christians continue to stand with arms folded, presenting to men and women a tarnished image of God—a shattered body of Christ? How should we show the world that we are Christians?

Through the centuries, people have displayed many different symbols intended to show that they are Christians. They have worn marks in the lapels of their coats, hung chains about their necks, and even had special haircuts. But, there is a much better sign — a universal mark that is to last through all the ages of the church till Jesus comes back. That is, that we love one another in a manner this world cannot understand.

Francis Schaefer, *The Mark of a Christian*

“Our post-Christian neighbors need to hear and see and taste and feel authentic Christianity, hospitality spreading from every Christian home that includes neighbors in prayer, food, friendship, childcare, dog walking, and all the daily matters upon which friendships are built.”

Rosaria Butterfield, *The Gospel Comes with a House Key*

“We introverts miss out on great blessings when we excuse ourselves from practicing hospitality because it exhausts us. I often find people exhausting. But over the years I have learned how to pace myself, how to prepare for the private time necessary to recharge, and how to grow in discomfort. Knowing your personality and your sensitivities does not excuse you from ministry. It means that you need to prepare for it differently than others might.”

Rosaria Butterfield

“Christian contentment is that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, freely submitting to, and taking delight in God’s wise, and fatherly disposal in every condition.”

Jeremiah Burroughs, *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment*

Contentment is not by addition, but by subtraction: seeking to add a thing will not bring contentment. Instead, subtracting from your desires until you are satisfied only with Christ brings contentment.

Jeremiah Burroughs

I. The Character of Christians (vs. 1-5a, 7, 9)

Who We Are and How We Live

- A. Exercise *Brotherly Love* (vs. 1) “Band of Brothers” vs. Presbytery
- B. Practice *Hospitality* (vs. 2) Don’t get caught up with the “Angels” comment (more than meets the eye) Q- Rosaria
- C. Remember those *Imprisoned/Suffering* (vs. 3) Fellow Xians? Metanoia?
- D. Honor *Marriage and Holy Sexuality* within it (vs. 4) ALWAYS been humanity’s downfall!
- E. Be *Content* (not a lover of Money or Possessions) (vs. 5)
- F. Remember and Imitate *Faithful Leaders* (vs. 7)
- G. Do Not Follow *Strange Teaching that Drifts from the Gospel of Grace* (vs. 9)

II. The Character of Our God (vs. 5b, 6, 8)

Who God IS: He never Leaves, Never Forsakes, is a Faithful Helper to His People

- A. Consistency (vs. 5b)
- B. Commitment (vs. 6)
- C. Constancy (vs. 8)

Who is like the Lord Our God? The Lord is My Salvation!

Hebrews 13:1-10

1 Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters.

2 Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

3 Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

*“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”*

6 So we say with confidence,

*“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?”*

7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. 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 carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by eating ceremonial foods, which is of no benefit to those who do so. 10 We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat.

Philippians 2:12

“...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling...”

John 13:33-35

A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. (John 13:33-35)

Matthew 5:14-16

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.