

Better Together – Heb 13:1-3

¹Let brotherly love continue.²Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.³Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also.

Verse 1. Love One Another

¹Let brotherly love continue.

- Love = Philadelphia
- Brother = fellow believers
- Mutual affection
- Loving one another as brothers and sisters
- Keep showing love and kindness.
- **John 13:34-35** *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*
- **1 Cor 13** further defines this well, verses 4-8
- *⁴Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends.*
- **1 John 3:10** *By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.*

- **Romans 13:8** *Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law*
- Better together as we can experience the love of Christ through each other!

Verse 2. Share with each other.

²*Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.*

- We are better together as we can share with each other. Sharing life is a privilege. Specifically with fellow believers. To be of one mind, one voice, one spirit. We are one body.
- “Entertain strangers” (*philoxenia*) = treating someone you don’t know, generously in the context of one’s home
- There is blessing when we participate in facilitating the gospel. I do believe unexpected blessings follows willing and obedient acts of hospitality.
- We are better together as we can share life with each other!

Verse 3. Remember your brothers and sisters.

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

- “Remember” = keep present in one’s thoughts = to actively serve one another
- “Remembering” = acting in response to a brother or sister’s needs. We need to be highly aware of others. We do so by remembering we are also chained with them.

- Here, the writer reminds the early church to “remember those who are in prison”, often fellow Christians imprisoned for their faith.
- Previous chapter **Heb 10:32-34** affirms this. ³² *But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, ³³ sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. ³⁴ For you had compassion on those in prison, and **you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property**, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.*
- **2 Tim 1:15-18** ¹⁵ *You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are **Phygelus and Hermogenes.** ¹⁶ May the Lord grant mercy to the household of **Onesiphorus**, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, ¹⁷ but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me— ¹⁸ may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.*
- Paul highly commended Onesiphorus for his brother love, “was not ashamed of my chains,” highlights how crucial it was to “remember those in prison”, even for an apostle.
- Yet, in remembering those in prison, those mistreated and practicing hospitality, equates to visiting and serving Christ. This is the application for us, we are better together as we serve each other:
- **Matthew 25:35-40** ³⁵ *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’*
- Better together so we can actively serve one another!

Conclusion

1. **Better together** as we can experience the love of Christ through each other, we are called to love one another.
2. **Better together** as we can share life with each other, we are called to be hospitable to one another.
3. **Better together** so we can actively serve one another, we are called to remember each other.