

TITLE: LET'S TALK ABOUT MINISTRY

TEXT: Hebrews 13:1-6

Will you turn to Hebrews chapter 13. There are notes in your bulletin and I trust you will use them as we study the Word of God. Hebrews chapter 13 beginning with verse 1.

(Read 13:1-6)  
Prayer

Chapter 13 of Hebrews deals with some exciting practical applications of christian living. This chapter talks about <sup>the</sup> specific responsibilities we have as believers. In Vs 1-6 Paul deals with basic three issues. And these three issues are connected with each other.

Vs 1...Let love of the brethren Continue

Vs 4...Let marriage be held in honor

Vs 5...Let your way of life be free from the love of money.

So, we are talking about three things here: Ministry, Marriage, and money. And Paul explains these three issues in such a way that they are all related to COMMITMENT TO JESUS CHRIST. If you really are a believer, <sup>and you want to be</sup> if your life really is committed to him, all three things are areas which explain that commitment.

As a matter of fact, it is in these three areas that the christian often faces defeat, discouragement, sin, problems, difficulties, and lack of victory: MINISTRY....MARRIAGE.....AND MONEY.

IA Now, let's look at the first issue: Our Ministry to others Vs 1-3. When we talk about ministry to other people, you might not put this into a category of a difficult christian problem. But, if you reflect upon your own life and ministry, I think you can see that it is a problem...A big problem. One of the easiest things to do is to cop-out on our responsibility to one another. For example....when you come to church you are actually seating as spectators and you are hearing the teaching of the Word of God....

The great need for ~~brotherly love~~ says that we, as christians, should not neglect to show hospitality to one another. ~~Why? Because of the unexpected blessings that come our way.~~

Vs 3 explains the great necessity of ministering to others. We are told to remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated. WHY? Because someday we, also, may have suffering and ~~also need the ministry of other christians.~~

(2C) Now, I would like to come to Vs 4 and the issue of MARRIAGE.

The KJV says, "Marriage is honorable in all." If you will notice that the word "is" is in italice. Meaning, that it is not in the original text. ~~It~~ simple says, "let marriage be held in honor."

The point is that there were some christians who were letting the principles of marriage slip. "Let marriage be held in honor among all." This means in every respect. In all things, let marriage be held in honor. And the particular ~~respect~~ <sup>area</sup> that Paul has in mind is "sexual sin." For he says, "let marriage be held in honor." And then a parallel statement, "let the marriage bed be undefiled."

So, the "bed" and "marriage" are being equated. They are parallel statements. <sup>me</sup> The "bed" by the way, in English is our word "Coitus." So, Paul is talking about sexual intercourse.

Marriage should be honable in every respect. And the physical ~~relationship~~ relationship of marriage should be undefiled.

Now, how do you defile the physical relationship of marriage? Paul explains how in the next statement. "For fornicators and adulterers God will judge."

Here is a rare example in the Word of God when there is a separation between fornicators and adulterers.

The word "fornication" is <sup>the</sup> board word, <sup>and</sup> from which we get our word "pornography." And it refers to all kinds of sexual sins. Whether homosexualism, permarrital sex, adultery, Sex before mariage as well as sex after marriage <sup>with someone other than spous.</sup>

"Fornication" has this board meaning. Some times we restrict the word to mean only sex before marriage. But, it is also used for other forms of sexual sins.

However, in this Verse Fornication is used with Adultery. So, the obvious point is: whether before or after marriage, either one ...that is the way you defile the principle of marriage.

So, what is Paul trying to say? Christians are to minister love to another. We are to have brotherly love and affection. It was slipping from them, and Paul says, "let it remain, let it continue, let it be constantly among you. [And, also, let's watch that the principles of marriage don't slip out of our midst by means of fornication and adultery.

You know, I couldn't help but think as I read and studied this, that boy, this is contemporary.

Marriage is being constantly put down in our day. In fact, it is the alternative that seems to be the bad alternative in this day and age. And it is being torn down on all fronts. ---In schools and colleges... in our courts....and in ~~the~~ general practice. And many experts says that it is going to get worose.

You want to know what I believe is going to happen? I believe that the day will come when I will stand in this pulpit and preach these principles and the majority of the listeners will think that I am crazy because it will be so different from what society has come to accept. That is what is going to happen. I really believe it. In fact, it has already started. And it will happen.

Unless, we, who call ourselves Christians "let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled." Unless, young people and old people again restate within their behaviour christian principles of purity, clean speech, and good conduct.

Unless we as adults and young people do away with all forms of sexual sins in our lives - meaning permarrital sex and adultery in marriage.

*(If you are guilty of committed a sexual sin before marriage or in marriage - then Confess and make 1 Joh 1:9*

(Turn and Read I John 2:15-17)

0 . If a christian is going to have problems in terms of commitment, it will not only be in ministry, it will be in marriage. "Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled."

(1D) Now, obviously there is a command here.

The Bible isn't just suggesting that we as believers think that marriage is a good thing. It is a **COMMAND**. A command that is very specific. God doesn't deal with suggestions. NO WAY.... God puts it right on the line where it belongs. **WHERE IS THE PROBLEM IN MARRIAGE THAT IS GOING TO EFFECT THE CHRISTIANS COMMITMENT?** ANSWER: It is in the physical relationship. And it is dealing with sexual relationships.

Now, I believe this command deals with basically two things:

(1E) One, it deals with our attitude towards marriage.

Paul says, "let it be held in honor among all."

In other words, exalt marriage. Don't put it down. And I think it is very difficult, once you have had a tradget in your marriage & do what the Bible says....Yet, it is all the more imperative for you to do what it says. Honor marriage in every respect.

The Bible teaches that we have a definite responsibility in attitude. Isn't it interesting that this command flows out of the book of Hebrrows? For ~~10~~<sup>42</sup> chapters, Paul deals with the glory of Christ and his authority over all things. And then his atonement and how he has paid for all of our sins.

And ~~now~~<sup>Paul</sup> he says, watch your attitude towards marriage. You see, the two are related. If Christ is truly the authority above all, if we really believe that He is number one, the priority in our life, if we have really committed ourselves to him, then the practical application is in honoring marriage.

(2E) And the command deals, not only with our attitude, but with our actions...Our actions both before and after marriage.

Fornication and adultery ~~are~~<sup>is</sup> defiling the marriage. And God deals with those acts as destroying the concept of marriage in the Body of Christ. Because you see, the family is at the heart of the concept of the family of God. Marriage in the physical is an example of marriage in the spiritual. Physical family --- ~~is~~ / spiritual family===

God wants us to honor marriage in the family.

(2D) The second thing about this marriage statement in Vs 4, not that it is a command from god, but also he says that there are consequences to those who fail to commit themselves in this way.

He says that fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Now, that is quite a statement. What is he talking about in terms of the consequence? If we are believers in Christ, we are certainly saved. We know we are going to heaven. We have security in Jesus Christ our Lord. But this statment says that God will judge them.

In Galatians 5:19-21 in listing the works of the flesh, <sup>Paul</sup> it says that fornication and adultery are works of the flesh. And Vs 21 of Galation 5 says, if a man continues in these things he shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

In Revelation 21:8, it list it again and says, These practices will have there place in the lake of fire. Which is the second death.

<sup>The N.T</sup> What is ~~that~~ talking about? As through the entire book of Hebrews, these warnings are examples of what will happen to unbelievers.

The point is, if that is God's judgment upon unbelievers, don't ~~think~~ think that because we have been freed from that judgement that some how as Christians we willn't be judged "in this life" in terms of temporal consequences...There is no condemnation to them that are in Christ. None what soever. I am not going to stand before the great white throne judgement to be cast into Hell....NO....I will be there only in terms of spectator...not judgment. I know the Lord. I have cometo trust Christ and his shed blood for my sins. I jwill not be judged for any sin that I have ever committed or ever could commit.

But, listen, that doesnot remove, christian friends, in this life, God will bring his judgement upon the one who practices these things. So, there are serious consequences to the christian.

(3B) Now, in Vs 5 Paul deals with the third subject. Money *that affects our commitment*

(Read Vs 5-6)

He now brings up money. First - ministry to others, then marriage, and now money. *you want to have Victory in your Life? Then Bring these three over - Ministry - Marriage - Money - under God's control*

(1D) The first thing he tells us is the importance of our attitude towards money.

He says "let your way of life be free from the love of money, being content with what you have."

Two things, really, express our attitude towards money.

(1E) First is the phrase that says "free from the love of money." Do ~~is~~ not love money more that God.

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(20) The second phrase which deals with attitude is to be content.

Notice, it says to be content with what you have. Some people look at those who are rich and say, "Boy, if I had their money I could be content."

Let me translate out of the Greek literally " Be content with the things present." And it means "continually present."

The point is that the circumstance of your life shifts. It is not a question of how much you have or how little you have. But contentment where ever you are...Not desiring to have more or longing greater gain, but what ever you have.

If ~~God~~ <sup>have</sup> blesses you with alot, then use it. You are to be a good steward. But where ever you are, the things present in your life, the present circumstance, be content. Paul wrote in what ever state you find yourself, there you are to be content..

Paul said, I learned how to abound. Boy, I was filthy rich, once. But I have also learned to be in want where I had nothing.

Contentment in what ever state you are.

Now, turn to I Timothy chapter 6 to see the importance of this teaching. Paul says, in terms of attitude, we are not to be lovers of money.

I Timothy chapter 6 beginning at Vs 6

(read 6:6-10)

Now, I don't want to bore you with a list of illustrations. For you and I know that the list is long. Among your friends or relatives, or perhaps in your own life, now, when you begin to put your heart on money on things, you put your heart there, You desire to have ~~that~~ more, more, more. And you put your heart there. According to the Bible that love of money will destroy you. IT WILL DESTROY YOU.

Our attitude towards money is without covetous. Don't be a money lover. Don't desire to have more. Be content where you are. The things at hand right now.

Any one, listening to me right now, no matter who you are, if you are not content with where you are, when the Bible teaches that we are violating our commitment to Christ in the area of money.

And that is really hard. Some times we have needs and being content where we are, even if God takes it away, is very hard to do.

Commitment to Christ. It is interesting isn't it in I Timothy 6:11 what he says: "but flee from these things you man of God."

He is tells us to be commitment to the Lord and to ~~the~~ flee the love of money. The love of money which will ruin you...

(20) Now that is our attitude towards money. Come back to Hebrews 13 and let's look at our ASSURANCE.

If you are having a little trouble with this, and you say, Yes, but if we don't have the money how are we to live.

(Read Vs 5)

Now, I know a lot of Christians like to quote that phrase about Christ's presence. And I know that is important. That certainly is an application. But, in the content it is referring to money. To be content financial where ever you may be. <sup>Why</sup> Because your assurance is, that the Lord will never leave you. He will never forsake you. *Trust God, He will take care of you*

Now, he is quoting from the O.T. And you know, in the book of Deut. God said this constantly to Joshua. I have the feel about Joshua, inspite of the great leader that he was, he had a built in probæm. Like many of Jus. He was scared to death. He really was.

How Can I ever be like Moses? How can I take these people into this land felled with people who are our enemies? How can we defeat them? How can we have victory? God, you say go in and take the land. But how are we going to do it?

And over and over again God said to Joshua, "I will never leave you, nor forsake you."



You know, many times whrn I read the O.T. I find myself saying, Well that applies to them. Those in the O.T. I really want to use that verse in my life batt I am not really convinced I can. I want to see it in its contexts.

What a thrill to realize that that is quoted in Hebrews 13 and now I know it is for me. Well, certainly all of the Bible is for me. But you know what I mean in terms of context. What a reassurance to my life. I will never leave you, nor will I ever forsake you. The same message he told to Joshua. Have courage, don't worry no matter where you are. ~~(30)~~ He also makes an application from I Chronicles 28. David said this to Solomn. Solomn was instruced with the task of building the Temple. And David in his old age charges Solomon and says, Solomn you don't have to worry about how you are going to finish the temple or all of the problems connect with its building, Be cause the lord will never leave your nor forsake you.

Isn't that neat? Even the task that God gives to us, he will never leave us. Even the matter of trusting him with my money, he will never leave me nor forsake me. The barrel might get quite low. Like that widdow in the O.T. in the days of Elisha. But it never ran out.

Daid said, I am an old man but I have never seen the righteous forsake, nor hss seed begging bread.

You can trust God. He will take care of us. God will take care of you.

(30) Now, the third thing I want you to see from Vs 6 is OUR ANSWER TO OTHERS.

Notice, "so that we confidently say,".....The point is that alot of people will point to you in times ~~of~~ of trouble and say, "Well, where is your God now?" "He is taking care of you, hun" "Look at the way things are now in your life."

And the Bible says, listen, this assurance that <sup>God</sup> will never leave you nor forsake you, is so that you can say with confidence, no matter ~~that~~ <sup>with</sup>

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may ask you, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT SHALL MAN DO TO ME?"

Acturally there are three statements there.

One, "The Lord is my helper

Two, I will not be afraid

Three, What shall man do to me?

The answer is nothing. Man can do nothing to you, when you are committed to Christ. When Christ is number one in your life.

In Romans 8 it says If God is for us who can be against us. Who shall separate you from the love of Christ. NOTHING CAN...NO CREATED THING.. is able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

So, there are three areas that affect your commitment to Christ.

Three areas: Ministry, Marriage, and Money. ~~And~~

And each ~~area~~ area involves a function of your christian <sup>commitment</sup> ~~life~~.

Ministry --- involves your service for Christ. God always describes your <sup>ministry</sup> ~~service~~ in terms of serving others. Love For The Brethren

Marriage involves your sanctification. Which means God setting you apart from sin. If you are really committed to Christ it will be in the area of service and in your marriage which includes your dating habits before marriage.

In terms of MONEY this involves your stewardship. God has entrusted you with things. And he wants you to have the proper attitude.

And as I look at these three areas I notice there is a need.

In the area of ministry which involves my service what is the need?

The need to to care -- to have compassion towards others. Loving one another. And that <sup>need</sup> ~~area~~ comes from the Lord. And if you are not walking with the Lord you are not going to have that compassion for someone else.

In terms of Marriage the need is control over our sexual desire. Again that is the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Just as the spirit produces love so he gives us self-control ...

And in the area of money the need is for contentment. Being content with what we have. Why? Because we know that the Lord is going to ~~us~~ meet our needs.

*love*

COMMITMENT IS BASED UPON THE AUTHORITY ~~AND~~ LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST.

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Shall we close in prayer

Love

Trying To fall in love with a concept - Love