

DISCUSSION IDEAS
BROTHERLY LOVE

Hebrews 13:1-6

July 12th, 2015

Page 1 of 2

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: HOW DOES LOVING MY BROTHER/SISTER IN CHRIST REQUIRE FAITH?**

First of all, what is "faith"?

What does our present culture define as "faith"?

If we understand the biblical use of this word to mean "trust", how important is it to identify what or who we are trusting?

Discuss the main thoughts in Heb. 13:1 and John 13:34-35.

Heb. 13 uses the word for love is "brotherly-love" (identical to the name "Philadelphia").

In John 13, the word for love is "agape" (ah-gah-pay), the unconditional care and desire to do good for another.

Discuss how these two ideas of love are related.

What kinds of actions and attitudes will result from these.

Now, tie the ideas of unconditional love with trust.

Remember, this love is unconditional, so is it important to trust my brother, or to trust God?

How does trusting God relate to acting out love towards someone?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: ISSUES RELATED TO BROTHERLY LOVE AND AGAPE.**

Read through Heb. 13:1-6.

Discuss the attitudes and actions listed here.

How does each one hurt or help our relationships in this world?

How does our relationship to any one else affect our relationship with God?

Look again at verse 6: return to the question of how does trusting God relate to acting out love towards someone?

What kinds of things might get in the way of really showing love to another?

What if they turn on me and hurt me?

What if I am justifiably angry about what they have done?

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Page 2 of 2

Can I love someone I don't like?

Why should I show love to a complete stranger...to someone who could be a total jerk?

Read Colossians 3:12-14. Here we are told to "put on" or "clothe yourselves with" numerous items....

Make a list of these things.

How would each one of these affect my relationship with another person?

Heb. 13:4 singles out godly sexual relationships and sexual immorality.

Why is this such a big issue to God?

How might a lack of agape love mess up a marriage?

Who do I care the most about if I am in an immoral relationship – me, or the other person?

Who does Satan care most about?

Who does God care most about?

How is the love of wealth in verse 5 similar to immorality?

♦ **REFLECTION:**

Take time to absorb what Jesus said in John 14:20-21 and in John 17:20-21. Jesus invites us into the Trinity!!!

John Ortberg has written:

"At an enormous cost to every member of the Trinity, you and I have been welcomed to the eternal circle, to be held in the heart of Father, Son, Spirit"¹ *(underlining added)*

He states that when we violate oneness, when we contribute to broken relationships, "We are in a real sense committing treason against the Trinity".² *(underlining added)*

Ponder that!!!!

¹ "Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them", by John Ortberg, Zondervan, Pg 41.

² Above, pg 128.