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THE BIBLE SPEAKS CONCERNING TRUE LOVE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
NUMBER 134
HEBREWS 13:2-4

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Here in the first four verses of Hebrews 13 we find information concerning two types of love, the love we call friendship love and the love between right man and right woman.

Phileo love, the love from which we get the word Philadelphia, means friendship love. IT IS A NON-TOUCHING LOVE. It is not related to sex. It is a mutual soul rapport kind of love. The very comical W. C. Fields had a hatred for the city of Philadelphia. He had carved on his tombstone "I would rather be here than in Philadelphia." Philadelphia is the greek word for brotherly love. This first verse of chapter 13 says, "There is no excuse for brotherly love not continuing." The way to be sure that brotherly love will continue is to have doctrine in the mind. This is the thing that brings the relaxed mental attitude of the soul.

HEBREWS 13:2 "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

The word for hospitality here doesn't mean the entertaining of your friends but rather it refers to people who are comparative strangers. Also intercessory prayer is used for people of this kind, people whom you know hardly at all. Entertaining old friends is not really considered hospitality.

An Extension Of Friendship Love

Brotherly love is not friendship love, but rather an extension of it. It is God's desire that every member of the body of Christ have a relaxed mental attitude toward every other believer. They stand as it were, shoulder to shoulder. You don't have to like all believers, but you are told not to dislike them in the sense of having mental attitude sins toward them.

You Can't Love Every Believer

You can like people without loving them. This crazy idea "When I blow the whistle we will all love everybody" is just ludicrous. We love God and then that love reaches out to all believers. This doesn't mean that you like to be with them, or you like the way they dress or the way they live. There are certain kinds of personalities that appeal to you and certain kinds that do not appeal to you. Some people are naturally sweet and some are not. But this doesn't have anything to do with spirituality. Some people will say, "Isn't she spiritual, or isn't he spiritual." No, it isn't spirituality in most instances, it is just a superficial personality showing through. Personality change is not spirituality advance.

The Principle Of Hospitality

Some people just naturally have the gift of hospitality. (Illustration--Groups come in here and we put them up in our homes. You open your homes to them and it is sort of a grab-bag situation. You never know what you are going to get. This is an extension of brotherly love.)

"Be not forgetful" is the present, middle, imperative of epilanthanomai plus the negative me. It is an imperative, a command and means "Don't be neglectful." Then we have a noun translated "to entertain strangers" from the word philoxzenia and it means hospitality. So this phrase says, "Don't be neglectful of hospitality." It reflects your character rather than the character of the one you entertain. This is an application of loving the brethren. It is a demonstration of mental attitude love and relaxed mental attitude. Next we have the words gar and dia and houtos and I am going to translate those words "For you see through this." Next we have the plural of tis translated "some." Then it says, "Have entertained angels" and this is referring historically to the time when Abraham entertained Jesus Christ and other angels with him. The story is told in Genesis 18 and 19. It means that you never know how some of these guests may turn into lifelong friends. "Have entertained" is the aorist, active, participle of xzenizo plus the word aggellos meaning "angels." The word translated "unawares" is the aorist, active, indicative of lanthano and it means "they escaped notice."

So, this verse correctly translated says, "Stop neglecting hospitality, for you see, through this, some without knowing it have entertained angels."

Summary

1. Hospitality is not only a blessing to others but is a blessing to the one who gives it.
2. Hospitality is another form of generosity. It offers one an opportunity to express the doctrine that is in his soul, rather than seeking to gain something for himself. True hospitality is exercised without desire to gain something in return.
3. A generous person gives without strings attached. There never occurs to him that he is giving so he can get something in return.
4. The believer who really understands grace extends hospitality to strangers without any desire for reward or without the motivation for gaining something.
5. While hospitality brings the stranger into your home, intercessory prayer takes you to the stranger in adversity. This is why we have the next verse. We turn the coin over and there is the other side. Hospitality and intercessory prayer are two sides of the same coin. On one side the stranger comes to you, and on the other side you go to them.

HEBREWS 13:3 "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body." This is a beautiful definition of intercessory prayer. These words "remember them" come from the present, middle, imperative of

mimneskomai. It means to call to mind, to be concerned about others in their trouble. "Them that are in bonds" comes from desmios and it means "prisoners." So this says, "Be concerned about the prisoners." At the time when these words were written, the Roman Empire was in great turmoil. This was the time of the last year and one half of the reign of Nero. His full name was Claudius Caesar Drusus Germanicus. Nero poisoned the one who was heir to the throne, and then he killed his mother because his mistress didn't like her. He actually tried to kill his mother twice. He tried to destroy the boat she was in but she swam seven miles to shore and escaped. He then divorced his wife Octavia and married his mistress. He started a huge fire in Rome and then claimed that the Christians did it. His mistress disagreed with him about this and when she was pregnant, he kicked her to death and then he married one of the worst women that ever lived, named Messilena, after he had assassinated her husband. You can see why someone thought it was time to offer a little intercessory prayer. Nero also started a war with the Jews which ended in the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. After Paul's second imprisonment in Rome in 67 A.D., Nero was responsible for the execution of the Apostle Paul.

Nero A Real Maniac

Nero caused the whole world to suffer. He played the worst flute of anyone, and yet he went all over the empire and demanded that they listen to him play and he always expected to win first prize. He had a high squeaky voice. One man sat in his audiences who was partially deaf and he would go to sleep when Nero played the flute. One day this man Vespasian told Nero, "I consider it a blessing that I am partially deaf, for then I don't hear much you play." Nero took it personally. Nero called his staff together and asked them to tell him what was the worst thing he could do to this man. They told him to send him to Palestine and this is exactly what Nero did. All the people told Vespasian that his career was ruined, but it turned out to be the means by which Vespasian became the Emperor of Rome. Nero put multitudes in jail who should not have been there. He fed Christians to the lions. When he would have a garden party, he would dip prisoners in oil and set them to burn as torches for his garden party. Therefore, this intercessory prayer here is suggested because of people who were being unjustly treated. People who were in the Mamertime Jail.

Next we have the expression "as bound with them." This is hos plus the perfect, passive, participle of sundeo. Here a participle is used as a noun and in this way, they gave great emphasis in the greek. All Christians are a part of the body of Christ and we are to pray for all those who are in the body. Intercessory prayer is an extension of brotherly love. This is why we have a prayer board every Wednesday night. The next word here is the aorist, passive, participle of kakoucheo and it means "them which are being maltreated." So this verse correctly translated says--

"Royal Family members, love must keep enduring. Stop neglecting hospitality, for through it, some without knowing it have entertained

angels. Be concerned about prisoners, as fellow prisoners. Be concerned with those being maltreated as being yourselves also as members of the body."

HEBREWS 13:4 "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." This verse says that marriage is a divinely ordained contract. Marriage is honorable whether it is a good marriage or a bad one. The words for marriage are ho gamos, meaning "the institution of marriage." Then we have the words timios and the present, active, imperative of eimi. So this actually says, "Let the divine institution of marriage be held in respect." Then it adds the words en pas and it means "by all the human race." Next we have the word "bed" and this is the greek word koite and this means "cohabitation, the sex act." Homer wrote in the 9th Century B.C. and used this word for sex and the sex act. Then we have the word amiantos translated "undefiled." It means unsoiled, pure, not tainted. It really means "the sex act is to be unsoiled by fornication."

Morality Important

Morality and spirituality are not the same. Morality is necessary for the proper function of the human race. It is one of the divine institutions provided for saved and unsaved alike. Morality is not spirituality but morality is included in spirituality.

Two Words Alike But Different

These old English words mean different things.

The word translated "whoremongers" is from pornos and it refers to the person who has pre-marital sex. The next word translated "adulterers" is from moichos and this means post-marital sex in an illicit way with someone other than your own right partner. The first word is for the unmarried and the second word is for the married.

DOCTRINE OF ADULTERY FROM PROVERBS 5

Verse 1 "My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding:" Here God is calling for us to bend our attention to the authority of his voice.

Verse 2 "That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge." God always wants us to learn the facts.

Verse 3 "For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil:" This is a verse on superficial flattery. She is pictured here as saying things that she does not mean. No man can blame a woman for this. He is just a sucker for her line.

Verse 4 "But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword." Getting entangled with a woman of this kind is like drinking cheap wine. The handover is not worth it.

Verse 5 "Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell." A picture of the days when they wore long dresses and character could be determined by looking at the feet. Her feet revealed seductive tendencies.

Verse 6 "Lest thou shouldst ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them." This is the description of a promiscuous woman. "Her ways are movable" means she gives the same line to anyone who comes along. (She will late-date you and tell him the same thing she told you.)

Verse 7 "Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth." Here he is calling his class to come back to attention and really listen to him.

Verse 8 "Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:" Here we are advised to move right on past her. If you decide to go to her door, you are already hooked. A man can't out-wit a woman who is promiscuous.

Verse 9 "Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel:" This is referring to giving away your sexual glory. This is giving sexual glory to a pseudo.

Verse 10 "Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger;" This is referring to a house of ill fame where venereal diseases are contracted.

Verse 11 "And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed." This kind of life always brings misery. The one who follows this way of life will become impotent.

Verse 12 "And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;" In this state of mind the person comes to actually hate to hear the truth.

Verse 13 "And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!" They failed to listen to the voice of the pastor-teacher.

Verse 14 "I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly." This is when he went to church and it didn't do him any good.

Verse 15 "Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well." This is instruction about staying with your right partner.

Verse 16 "Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets." Keep your hands to yourself and don't be promiscuous.

Verse 20 "And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?" Why wander off to a stranger and fool with sex with someone who is not your right partner?

Verse 21 "For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings," The Lord has his eyes on you and he photographs your every step.

Summary

1. By having sex with the wrong person, he has erected an idol that destroys relationship with God.
2. The idol he has manufactured is not the right person for him.
3. Man in fornication has intruded on God's perfect design for his life.
4. Every act of illicit sex is just another link in the chain which binds a man to the idol of immorality.
5. This is the path that leads a man to be a slave to his appetites.
6. Once the right partner does come along, he has no capacity to respond because he has wasted his love at some wayside altar.
7. The idol will never bring satisfaction, only the real thing can do this.

These very same principles are also discussed in Proverbs 6:20-32.

PROVERBS 6:25 "Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids." Don't lust after physical beauty.

Verse 26 "For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life." This immoral life leads to crumbs every time.

Verse 27 "Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?" This really means "Can a man drop a hot coal in his pocket and his pants not be burned?"

Verse 28 "Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?" No man can walk on the hot coals of illicit sex and not be burned.

Verse 29 "So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent." A man who violates his neighbor's wife will not go unpunished.

Verse 30 "Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry;" When a man steals sex from the wrong person, he will be apprehended and he will have to repay.

Verse 32 "But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul." Here may be the greatest verse in the Bible concerning this subject. The one who keeps on fornicating with the wrong woman betrays himself. The law punishes a man who steals, but a man who fornicates punishes himself.

So this verse says, "Let the divine institution of marriage be held in honor by all the human race and the sex act (koite) unsoiled by pre-marital sex or post-marital sex."

Summary

1. In as much as marriage is a coalescence of body and soul, it is imperative that all who are single wait for the right man or right woman. While waiting, pre-marital sex is ruled out. Contrary to popular belief, pre-marital sex does not help prepare one for a well-adjusted sex life later on.
2. Pre-marital sex has a bad influence on the right relationship in marriage. Chastity is ridiculed today but it is the path to married happiness.
3. Pre-marital sex is neither necessary or desirable. The Word of God forbids it.
4. It is forbidden for a number of reasons. It destroys the soul part of sex. The secret of sex is in the soul, not some biological urge or lust. Promiscuity voids real sex happiness. The body must never lead the soul. This is homosexuality and lesbianism.
5. The blessing and happiness in sex was designed by God in eternity past to be between the right man and the right woman.
6. There must be coalescence of soul before there is coalescence of body.

This verse ends with the words "God will judge." Ho Theos plus the future, active, indicative of krino. People can rebound and cut off the judgment but you can't continue in this immoral living and think that God will wink at it and overlook it.

So this great verse correctly translated says, "Let the divine institution of marriage be held in honor by all the human race and the sexual relationship or marriage unsoiled by infidelity. For the God will judge fornicators (unfaithfulness before marriage) and adulterers (unfaithfulness after marriage)."