**Jesus, Our Great High Priest**

**Hebrews: Hearing and Obeying God’s Son**

**Hebrews 13:1-6**

**Making Faith Matter: Love’s Practical Side**

**(Or, Staying in Philadelphia)**

[In light of our Great High Priest, His ministry, and understanding all that is at stake for now and eternity (chapters 1-12). . .]

May love for one another be “at home” among you. v. 1

 Love was not lacking among these brothers, but our author reminds them of specific duties that real love demands. . . .

* Eager Hospitality–for some have entertained angels. v. 2

 The idea is not to expect angels, but to make room for others as if they were the most honored of guests.

* Active Empathy–for you have a body, too. v. 3

 Put yourself in the place of others and serve them.

* Sexual Purity–for God will judge the immoral. v. 4

 The Lord takes marriage seriously, and so must we.

* Material Contentment–for Jesus is with you. vv. 5, 6

 Choose Jesus over anxiety.

 ***Living Our Faith***

 Every book in the Bible does two things: it instructs us about God and His plans for humanity, and it encourages us to live out the truth that we have read. Here our author again reminds us that our relationship with God has implications and makes demands upon every single area of our lives. As believers, we now are free to obey: blessed when we do, and reaping consequences when we don’t.

*1. We are social beings: Every action affects others.*

As much as many pretend that their sin “doesn’t hurt anyone else,” the reality is that because we are relational beings, who we are and what we do can have far reaching effects upon others in our lives, both now and in the future. “No man is an island.” Phil. 2:3-8

*2. We are sexual beings: Purity is its own reward.*

Our author points out an obvious reason for maintaining sexual purity against the onslaught of pornography, deteriorating marriages, homosexuality, and cohabitation: judgment. But another point is that while myriads who have caved to sexual temptation have myriads of regrets, no one regrets his/her purity. Prov. 5:1-14

*3. We are corporal beings: But we walk by faith, not feeling.*

 God made us with bodies, creating not only the opportunity to interact with our material world, but also the temptation to maintain our comfort at all costs, become the slave of our desires, and fearful of all that threatens our comfort zone. The presence and example of Jesus combine to show us that we can, by faith, escape the bondage of self and enjoy serving others. “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.” Jim Elliot Rom. 8:17