

### Pouring Concrete: Love in the Local Church

Heb 12 <sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. <sup>29</sup> For our God is a consuming fire.  
13 <sup>1</sup> Let brotherly love continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.  
<sup>3</sup> Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also.

► Ch 13 does not change the subject—it is still talking about \_\_\_\_\_ God in a shaking world.

► Hb 13 addresses four areas where our worship of God will display itself in transformed \_\_\_\_\_ and in stark contrast to the idolatrous culture around us—four areas that will show that that we are building on the Rock:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ in the local church;
- 2) The \_\_\_\_\_ union;
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ and the blessing of God;
- 4) Authority & submission in the local \_\_\_\_\_.

► Notice that all these areas begin with the local church or with the family. This is where you start \_\_\_\_\_ the concrete.

*Psalm 11<sup>3</sup> If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?*

*Mat 7 <sup>24</sup> “Whoever hears these words of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: <sup>25</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these words of Mine, and*

*does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: <sup>27</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.*

► One of the qualities of biblical love displayed in our text is biblical \_\_\_\_\_, which derives from a root word meaning to *provide what is* \_\_\_\_\_. It excludes kindly feelings that don't \_\_\_\_\_, as well as kindly actions that don't \_\_\_\_\_. God is our example.

*Titus 3 <sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> He saved us, not by works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit*

*Ps 103 <sup>4</sup> [Bless the Lord] who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies*

*Phil 2 <sup>5</sup> Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped [i.e., clutched], <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> ... He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (NASB)*

*1Cor 13<sup>4</sup> Love is ... kind.*

► It is especially this quality of divine love that we are to emulate toward one another in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

*John 13 <sup>34</sup> “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”*

► The early Christians were also called *Chrestians*, based on *chresto*, the Greek word for \_\_\_\_\_.

► How does Hb 13 emphasize these things? What is the backdrop for *strangers, prisoners, and those ... mistreated*? And what does *entertain* mean?

*Rom 12* <sup>9</sup> Let love be without hypocrisy ... <sup>10</sup> Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another ... <sup>13</sup> distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

*Col 3* <sup>15</sup> You were called in one body ... be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs

► Who unwittingly entertained angels? (Gn 18; 19.1)

— How do we apply this?

*Mk 9* <sup>41</sup> "Whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

► What do other texts on love within the body of Christ add?

1) Love is the only thing that \_\_\_\_\_ the body.

*Eph 4* <sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ ... <sup>16</sup> [T]he whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, ... causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

2) Love is the core of true \_\_\_\_\_.

*1Cor 13* <sup>2</sup> Though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

3) Love is our only \_\_\_\_\_.

*John 13* <sup>34</sup> "[L]ove one another, as I have loved you ... <sup>35</sup> By this all will know that you are My disciples"

4) Deep love within the body is the first indication that God is on the \_\_\_\_\_.

*Ruth 1* <sup>8</sup> "The LORD deal kindly with you, as you have ... with me ... Turn back, my daughters, go—for I am too old" ... <sup>14</sup> but Ruth clung to her ... <sup>16</sup> [and] said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. <sup>17</sup> Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me."

*Neh 8* <sup>10</sup> "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength" ... <sup>12</sup> And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.