**SERMON NOTES**

**Introduction: We can break up chapter 13:1-6 into two groups! Our “ministry to others” (vs 1-3) and our “ministry to ourselves” (vs 4-6)**

* **Ministry to others – we are to be outward focused as Christians!** 
  + **Phil. 2:3-4 –** *“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”*
  + Chapter 13:1 begins with an exhortation to let brotherly love continue. We have a “family” connection to each other as Christians.
  + **1 John 1:3 –** *“We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.”*
  + **Romans 12:9 –** *“Let love be genuine”*

**Practical examples of how to love each other.**

1. **By Showing Hospitality (vs 2)** 
   1. In the early church, hospitality was a highly important and respected virtue.
   2. It was required for elders to serve in the church
      1. **1 Tim. 3:2 & Titus 1:8**
   3. Travel was difficult and often scary/dangerous for early Christians.
   4. Hospitality became a way for Christians to meet the needs of other Christians who might be traveling away from their homes. Why??
      1. Early Christians were very missional
      2. Early Christians were often persecuted (Acts 8 – Philip goes to Samaria)
   5. How is Hospitality DIFFERENT from merely entertaining friends?
      1. Biblical Hospitality is ministry oriented (meeting needs).
      2. Biblical Hospitality is others focused (not self-satisfaction )
      3. Biblical Hospitality has a Kingdom objective (Glorifying God).
   6. Who are the people that we minister to?
      1. Vs 2 – see to it that you show hospitality to “strangers”
      2. Not just our friends or the people we know…but the people we don’t know.
      3. Maybe even the people we don’t know in the church.
   7. The point of hospitality is, you don’t always know who your helping!
      1. Some have entertained angels unawares
      2. Abraham – Gen. 18
      3. Lot – Gen. 19
2. **By Remembering the Persecuted (vs 3)**
   1. When need to remember them because we so easily forget them.
   2. The early Christians suffered greatly under persecution, but it was the Christians who came to their aid. Why??
      1. *“you also are in the body”* – meaning that we can associate with their suffering. We have a body that hurts too!
      2. Because we’re in the body of Christ – if one member hurts, we all hurt and rally to help each other.
   3. How can we help? We may never go there in person, but we can pray for them and even support them financially through ministries like Voice of the Martyrs!