**SERMON NOTES**

**Introduction: The theme of Hebrews is that Jesus is better than all the OT!**

**The first 11 chapter of Hebrews are extremely theological! The practical application begins in chapters 12-13.**

* **The standard of the NT is “doctrine” before “duty” or “position” before “practice”**
* **Ex. Ephesians 1-3 (doctrine) 4-5 (application)**
* **Phil. 2:12 –** *“Work OUT your salvation with fear and trembling”* 
  + Working OUT everything that God puts in by grace!
* Doctrine/theology motivates the heart and guides the life!

**In chapter 13, the writer gets very specific about how they are to conduct their lives as Christians! He gives several exhortations!**

1. **The exhortation to love** 
   1. **(vs 1) – “Let brotherly love continue”**
   2. **Brotherly love = in Greek *Philadelphia… “city of brotherly love”*** 
      1. **Philadelphia =** refers to a kind of family love between siblings who come from the same womb…they are “fraternally connected”
      2. The church is “spiritually” connected and share a common bond of grace in Christ. We’ve all been born of the Spirit!
   3. **We don’t invent this love on our own, but it flows naturally from the love of Christ towards each other.** 
      1. **1 John 4:20** – *“Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar…”*
      2. **Ephesians 5:**25 – *“Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”*
         * We ought to love what Christ loves!
      3. **Col. 3:13 –** *“bearing with one another…forgiving as the Lord has forgiven you…”*
   4. **We need to remember that we are dealing with imperfect people in the church! We’re a work in progress!** 
      1. **Richard Baxter quote:** *Remember still that you are both diseased persons, full of infirmities; and therefore expect the fruit of those infirmities in each other; and make not a strange matter of it, as if you had never known of it before. If you had married one that is lame, would you be angry at her for limping? Or if you had married one that had a putrid ulcer, would you fall out with her because it stinketh? Did you not know beforehand, that you married a person of such weakness, as would yield you some manner of daily trial and offense? If you could not bear this, you should not have married her; if you resolved that you could bear it then, you are obliged to bear it now. Resolve therefore to bear with one another; as remembering that you took one another as sinful, frail, imperfect persons, not as angels, or as blameless and perfect.”*

**Why is Christian love important?**

* **It confirms that we are the children of God ( 1 John 4:20)**
* **It demonstrates to the world the reality of our faith!** 
  + **John 13:35 –** *“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*
  + **Matt. 5:16 –** *“Let your light shine… that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven”*