

The Priority & Practice of Love

Insights from Hebrews 13:1-3
Pastor Bob Johnson, June 7th, 2020

The Passage:

(Hebrews 13:1-3)

- Love _____ (v1)
- Love _____ (v2)
- Love _____ (v3)

The Pink Elephant:

(Genesis 18, Genesis 19, Judges 6:11-24, Judges 13:6-20)

The Practice:

- Treating other Christians like ...

(Hebrews 13:1, John 13:34-35)

F ... O ... C ... U ... S ...

- Including strangers as ...

(Hebrews 13:2, Isaiah 58:6-9, Luke 14:13-14, Lev. 19:9-10)

The goal of hospitality is to I... not I ...

- Remembering those in need by ...

(Hebrews 13:3, Proverbs 21:13)

Ask: Does this H ...

Ask: Will this H ...

(2 Thessalonians 3:10)

This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to our eighth week of this 11 week study of Hebrews 11-13. Our last week of small groups for this season will be the last week in June.

At GPC, we are big on small groups :). Even when we have to zoom! May our church family grow warmer together even through this social distancing season as we connect with each other through our phones and computers.

The good news is that we don't have to wait to be physically together to meet together, develop friendships and encourage each other as we learn to apply God's truths to our everyday lives.

Getting Started:

This week we took one more step closer to get us all gathering back again on our campus for our Sunday services.

A few smaller groups gathered for our 'soft launch' of our public services and we live streamed each of our services for the rest of our church body. Thanks for your patience with us as we continue to use technology to keep us all engaged :).

Speaking of technology ... what is one or two utensils, tools, items ... that you are glad you get to use on a frequent basis thanks to technology?

This past Sunday's message was all about the importance of loving others. In this crazy season we are in, how have you been loved by someone recently?

How have you reached out and loved someone else in a big or small way?

One last 'getting started question' ... Bob talked about a pink elephant. What is one of your favorite animals that you enjoy watching or learning about? If you could be one animal for a day, what would you choose?

Quick Review:

Let's re-read Hebrews 13:1-3.

From this passage and Sunday's message, and looking back at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, confused you, encouraged you, or stretched your thinking?

We are called to love one another in the body of Christ. Bob shared five practical ways we can 'focus' on loving one another as brothers and sisters in Christ: Forgive, overlook, confront, upbuild and share.

Which one or two of these have been offered to you lately in love?

Digging Deeper:

1. Knowing that we are called to love one another doesn't change the fact that there are still some people who are hard to love. An important quality in loving people who are hard to love is empathy.

Empathy is working to understand the experience and emotions of another person. How might the verses below help us develop our empathy and ability to love 'hard-to-love' people?

Ephesians 5:8

Matthew 9:36

Romans 5:6

Colossians 1:21

Which of these verses most inspires you to be empathetic toward others and why?

2. Another essential part of loving others is putting their needs in front of your own.

Read Mark 14:1-9 and John 13:1-5

Why do you think these people were willing to put aside some of their own wants or needs to help others?

What did it cost them to put their love into action?

What might it cost you to follow their example?

3. As we are still in this quarantine and social distancing season, loving others can be an even greater challenge!

One way we can improve our loving of others is to actually ask others how we can improve in demonstrating love to them.

Before you ask others, if you were ask the people around you if they thought you were a loving person, what do you think they would say?

Who can you ask in the next few days how you can improve in how you love them?

Wrapping Up:

Looking back on the message from Sunday and from our discussion, what is one truth that stands out to you that you can prayerfully ask God to help apply to your life somehow?

Praying Up: :)

Before we wrap up our sharing time, let's prayer for one another!

What are some specific requests we have that we can pray for?