

“The Ties That Bind!”
Hebrews 13:22-25

Introduction:

1. This Morning, We Come To The End Of Our Time In The Book Of Hebrews!
 - Which Has Shown To Us How Much Better The Lord Jesus Christ Is To Anything & Everything This World Has Ever Had To Offer!
 - We Looked Last Week At A Sort-Of Summary For The Book:
 - That God Has A Grand Design, And Has Implemented This Design Through Jesus Christ!
 - For Peace / For Perfection / For Praise!
 - But This Design Doesn't Stop There!
 - Not Only Are You Given A Relationship With God Through Jesus Christ – And Have Peace As A Result!
 - But You Are Also Given A Relationship With Others – So That You Are Part Of A Huge New Family!
 - And This Is The Final Message We Find In The Book Of Hebrews!
2. A Baptist Pastor In England During The 1700's, Pastor John Fawcett, Knew About The Value Of This Great Christian Family God Has Given To Us!
 - He Was The Pastor Of A Small Church In Wainsgate England!
 - And In 1772, He Was Asked To Go To London & Pastor A Large Church In That Large City, & Succeed The Famous Pastor, John Gill (The Same Church That Charles Spurgeon Would Eventually Pastor)! A Large Church / A Large Congregation / A Large Salary!
 - Pastor Fawcett:
 - Accepted The Call!
 - Preached A Farewell Sermon!
 - Wagon Loaded With He & His Wife's Things - Ready To Go!
 - As They Were Heading Off, His Church Members, With Tears In Their Eyes, Begged Him To Stay!
 - “His wife said, “Oh John, John, I cannot bear this.” “Neither can I,” exclaimed the good pastor, “and we will not go! Unload the wagons and put everything as it was before.”
 - They Stayed Until His Death In 1817, And Was Buried In The Church Cemetery!
 - Because Of This, He Wrote The Words:
 - “Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love; The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above!”
3. Christians Do Have Very Strong Ties That Bind Us Together!
 - For The Relationship Between Christians Ought To Be That Of A Close-Knit, Loving Family!
 - Hebrews Is Ended Showing How Close This Relationship Is, By Calling Them “Brethren!” (13:22) / And, In Tone, By Writing To Them As Brothers & Sisters In Christ!
 - And We Learn, That One Of The Most Important Results To What Jesus Christ Has Done For Us, Is To Have A Heart For The Christian Family He Has Given Us!
 - So We Find Here 4 “Ties That Bind Our Hearts In Christian Love!”
 - Read 13:22-25!

1. *Do You Have A Heart For Counsel From Your Christian Family?*

- 13:22 - “And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation: for I have written a letter unto you in few words!”
 - These Are The Final Words In This Letter From A Loving Pastor To His People!
 - Some Of What He Had Said Was Harsh & Heavy!
 - But, Now He Ends, Speaking With Them As Just Another Member Of God's Family – He Is Their Brother! In Fact, He Is Our Brother, Too!
 - In Tenderness & Gentleness!
 - **IE:** Shouldn't This Be How We End Our Conversations As Well?
 - He Gives Them A Word Of Encouragement:
 - “Suffer The Word Of Exhortation!”
 - “Suffer” - Endure! What He Wrote In This Letter!
 - What Made “The Word” Necessary To Be “Endured?”

- The Weight Of The Word!
- What He Wrote Was Important!
- What He Wrote Was Difficult!
 - Some Things Were Hard To Understand!
 - Some Things Were Hard To Apply!
- So, He Tells Them To “Endure” / “Suffer” Them!
- In Other Words:
 - Don’t Let The Weight Of The Words:
 - Crush You Like A Boulder!
 - Let It Be A Boulder That Lifts You Up!
 - To See Higher & Farther Into The Glory Of God In Your Salvation!
 - Let The Words Encourage You!
 - Don’t Let The Weight Of The Words:
 - Irritate You Like A Heavy Load!
 - Complaining & Rebelling!
 - Let It Be A Load Filled With What Is Refreshing & Nourishing & Necessary For Your Survival!
 - **IE:** Like Those Who Carry Pitchers Of Water On Their Head! Realize Its Value!
 - Let The Words Teach You!
 - Don’t Let The Weight Of The Words:
 - Be An Obstacle That You Want To Get Around!
 - Let It Be A Landmark & A Monument To Climb!
 - Seeing Its Impressive Size & Quality & Importance!
 - Let The Words Challenge You!
- This Is How We Ought To Respond To “The Word Of Exhortation” Found In Hebrews & Throughout The Bible!
 - Why? Because It Is Also:
- A Word Of Purpose!
 - It Was A Letter Written “In Few Words!”
 - What Does This Mean?
 - There Was So Much More That Could Have Been Written!
 - But He Did Not Want To Over-Burden Them!
 - And He Wanted To Be To-The-Point!
 - He Didn’t Just Ramble On & On - He Knew What They Needed & He Gave It To Them!
 - This Is What God Does For Us Through The Bible!
 - He Gives Us What Is Necessary!
 - Though Much More Could Be Known & Could Have Been Written!
 - 2 Peter 1:3 - “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue!”
- All The More Reason Why We Should **Listen** To The Word Of God!
 - He Did Not Waste Any Words In The Bible!
 - Every Word Is Filled With Precise Purpose & Meaning!
- In Order To Guide His Family, God Gave Us His Word!
 - And We Need To Listen To It & Endure It - Because It Is Profitable For Us!
- Do You Have A Heart For God’s Counsel Through His Word?
 - And Through His Messengers?
 - The First Tie That Binds Us Together! Listening To & Learning From The Word Of God!

2. ***Do You Have A Heart Of Care For Your Christian Family?***

- 13:23 - “Know ye that our brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you!”
- There Was Care In This Christian Family!

- A Model For Our Church!
- There Was Care For Timothy!
 - There Was An Interest In His Situation!
 - There Was Communication About His Situation!
 - When You Care, You Will Communicate!
- There Was Care For Them!
 - There Was A Desire For Them!
 - A Letter Could Only Do So Much!
 - There Was A Companionship With Them!
 - When You Care, You Will Want Companionship!
- Is There Care In Our Christian Family – Our Church?
 - Is There An Interest In One Another?
 - That Leads To Communication?
 - When You Care, You Will Communicate!
 - Is There A Desire For One Another?
 - That Leads To Companionship?
 - When You Care, You Will Want To See Each Other!
- Do You Have A Heart Of Care For Your Christian Family?
 - This Is The Second Tie That Binds Us Together!
 - Living With A Care & Concern For Each Other!
 - Romans 12:15 - “Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep!”

3. *Do You Have A Heart Of Closeness With Your Christian Family?*

- 13:24 - “Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you!”
 - Saluting For The Jews Was Something That Displayed Honor, Respect & Importance!
 - Jewish Leaders Wanted People To Salute Them First - Out Of Their Pride!
 - Jesus Even Warned Of This - Mark 12:38 - “And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces!”
 - Here, Saluting Is Still Something That Displayed Honor, Respect & Importance!
 - But It Was Toward Each Other, In A Submissive Way That Expressed A Close Relationship & A Sincere Live!
- This Closeness Is An Expectation!
 - “Salute” - To Draw Near To Yourself!
 - Before, It Was A Physical Embrace - With A Gesture, Words, Embracing & Even Kissing!
 - Now, It Means To “Embrace In Your Heart!”
 - The Expectation Is For You To Draw Closer To Each Other, As A Family – As Christian Brothers & Sisters!
 - Toward Those In Leadership!
 - Toward Those In Your Church!
 - Toward Each Other!
 - This Expectation Is A Command – To Do Whatever It Takes To Foster This Kind Of Relationship With Those in Your Church!
- This Closeness Is An Encouragement!
 - When You Embrace Your Own Church With Your Heart, Then You Can Embrace Other Christians With Your Heart!
 - What An Encouragement!
 - To Know Other Christians & Churches Are Thinking Of & Praying For You!
 - Their Hearts Were Drawn Toward Them & They Wanted Them To Know This & To Be Encouraged By It!
 - This Is A Special Bond With All Those Who Are Christians, And A Part Of This Family!
- Do You Have A Heart Of Closeness With Your Christian Family?
 - This Is The Third Tie That Binds Us Together!

- Linking With Each Other, With Love, Respect & Submission!

4. Do You Have A Heart With Compassion For Your Christian Family?

- 13:25 - "Grace be with you all. Amen!"

- This Is A Final, Tender, Loving Prayer & Desire!

- For God's Grace To Be Extended Upon Them, In All Of Its Goodness!

- Grace In All!

- A Desire For Their Complete Welfare!

- Physical, Material – Especially, Spiritual!

- Grace For All!

- Both Individually & As A Church!

- These Are The Final Words Of Hebrews!

- Reminds Us Of How Our Meetings & Conversations Should End! No Matter How Difficult The Subject!

- Colossians 4:6 - "Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt!"

- Do You Have A Heart Of Compassion For Your Christian Family?

- This Is The Fourth Tie That Binds Us Together!

- Living One Another!

- And Desiring What's Best For Each Other!

- And Showing That Love & Compassion Through Prayer!

Conclusion:

1. You Are Part Of A Family – A Christian Family!
 - This Book Of Hebrews Was Written To You!
 - At The Very End, The Writer Shows His Heart For You!
2. Do You Have The Same Heart For One Another?
 - A Heart For Counsel?
 - This Is How We Learn!
 - A Heart Of Care?
 - This Is How We Live!
 - A Heart For Closeness?
 - This Is How We Link!
 - A Heart With Compassion?
 - This Is How We Love!
3. Do These Ties Bind Us Together?
 - Our Church Ought To Be This Kind Of Christian Family!

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