

LIFESTYLE OF A CHRISTIAN

Hebrews 13:1-6

Introduction: Hebrews reveals how Christians should act, live, feel, attitudes, relationships to God and to one another. It brings into the open hypocrites, those who say one thing but do another. The life of the Christian is based upon God's Word, NOT upon the ideas of people - what God has Said, believe, what God has commanded, do. God's Word gives guidance, wisdom, direction, challenges, shields from Satan, and gives the Christian victory in life.

I. THE CHRISTIAN SHOULD HAVE COMPASSION (vv1,2)

1. Christians are to show "philadelphia" - Not agapa as God shows, but philos, brotherly love, human affection, sympathy, kindness, friendship, a fondness for others.
 - This kind of love is from the same source, God.
2. A problem exists in this area however. There is a discrepancy among Christians. Brotherly love has been lost for too many. Some Christians don't like each other and the greatest hurt, hostility often comes from other Christians.
 - Christians have become competitive, hard, calloused, NOT tender or concerned \ compassionate.
 - Christians often seem to enjoy hurting others who don't act the same way or do the same things they do, so they "hurt" those who are different.
 - *1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 4:7, 11, 12, 20, 21* defines Christian compassion.
3. Christians are to imitate Christ's attitude - *Matthew 5:23-24*. To initiate action to bring oneness.
 - What if just ONE Church family did this?

II. THE CHRISTIAN AND CONFLICT (vv 3,4)

1. Christians belong to a Family and enemies to one Christian affects the whole family. It's not enough to feel sorry for that fellow Christian, but must share the hurt, pain, the affliction.
2. Marriage is honorable, something esteemed, greatly valued, precious in God's eyes.
 - It is open conflict today and there are enemies in the home that would tear the home apart.
 - Christians often fail to listen to God in their marriages and it will be God, not some court judge who will bring judgment upon those who violate God's laws for marriage.
 - "We don't live together anymore, just couldn't get along, we need our space" excuses like these will crumble before God.
 - God says marriage is to be greatly esteemed. NOTHING is to break the bond.
 - Satan delights in breaking up Christian marriages.
 - God wants us to live up to our faith, profession, bearing Christ's name in honor. Act and live like Christ and not give the world the opportunity to blaspheme or laugh.

III. THE CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE CONTENT (v5)

1. "Conversation" in the Bible is the equivalent of "way of life" in today's understanding.
- Christians are not to be driven to the point of wanting, loving, having money and things.
2. The idea is not just be "content," satisfied, indifferent, but to cheerfully accept one's place, duty and doing what God has given one to do.
3. A great source of contentment for the Christian is the fact that God will never, never desert, abandon or leave the Christian.
4. To know God will never leave and that God has a plan for each of His children, the Christian has a wonderful foundation to build his/her contentment, confidence upon.

CONCLUSION:

1. Because God will stand with the Christian, there is nothing to fear.
- When living as God wants one to live, in His will, one can have boldness and confidence.
2. No matter what the condition of the world, there is no need for fear if the Christian is right with God. God will see His children through.
3. Such faith in God is invaluable for it gives reason to living, puts happiness into life and brings power into that Christian's life.
4. God asks His children to give Him their faith. Let Him have control.
5. Nobody but YOU, Christian can decide how you are going to live your life.