

Brotherly and Sisterly Love

Notes for March 26th

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Background

| Texts |
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| Heb 13, Rom. 12:13, Eph. 5:3-5, 1 Pet. 5:1-4, Heb. 2:9, Heb. 4:16, Gal. 2:20. |

Discussion

In our 12 sessions on Hebrews so far:

- We have discussed JESUS as our
 - KING,
 - MEDIATOR,
 - HIGH PRIEST,
 - BROTHER.
- Also, JESUS as the Promised SON and the SACRIFICE.
- We have also discussed the NEW COVENANT.

Acknowledging the interrelation of a number of these titles:

1. have you acquired any new understanding(s) in terms of these roles, as a result of our Virtual Vestry discussions?
2. have our studies, as a whole, enhanced your spiritual experience, and if so, in what way?
3. do you still struggle with any of the concepts raised in the past twelve weeks?

PLEASE READ HEBREWS CHAPTER 13.

A section of a [piece in 'The Times' newspaper](#) from a few days ago, written by the columnist, Janice Turner:

Sometimes love has the power to move nations

Sitting outside the Foreign Office in a picnic chair with handmade signs, wrapped in blankets, wearing a bobble hat, Richard Ratcliffe resembled a homeless person, a crank or just one of many single-issue obsessives who haunt Westminster. His bloodshot eyes overflowed with sorrow; after 21 winter days outside without food he was hunched and frail.

How on earth, you wondered, could this self-abnegation affect geopolitics, soften hearts in an unrepentant regime which hangs 300 of its own citizens a year. Yet on this final day of hunger strike, Ratcliffe held up a sign by way of explanation. 'LOVE IS A DOING WORD', it said.

The context of this is that his wife had been incarcerated by the Iranian regime and he was desperate for her to be freed. The point of selecting this portion of the article is his sign: 'Love is a doing word'.

Four themes in Hebrews 13 we may wish to explore:

1. Expressing brotherly love.
Verses 1-3.
2. Honouring marital love.
Verse 4.
3. Learning contentment over covetousness.
Verses 5, 6
4. Follow your leaders.
Verses. 7, 17

I leave these themes open-ended for you to develop. We will spend most time on theme 1.

Hebrews 13:9-16:

- Do these verses help you to understand the point of the whole letter?
- What was undermining this group of Jewish Christians' faith in the New Covenant?
- What undermined the faith of the Israelites in the Old Covenant after they moved into The Promised Land?
- What is undermining the faith of Christians in our country today?

From Aristotle:

Criticism is something we can avoid easily by saying nothing, doing nothing and being nothing.