

WHO'S THE GREATEST?

(Letter to the Hebrews)

Pembroke Bible Chapel
Mark Floyd – 2008 Sep 28
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“CHURCH LIFE”

(Hebrews 13:7-19)

FOLLOW THE LEADER(S) (7-9)

Believers are to hold fast to the unchanging truths about Jesus Christ that they have been taught by their spiritual leaders. (*Eph 4:11-15; Heb 10:23*)

MAINTAIN SEPARATION (10-14)

Christians are to maintain separation in worship from that of other non-Christian faith groups. (*1 Cor 10:14-22*)

MAKE SACRIFICES (15-16)

There is no sacrifice remaining to be made for our sins (Christ has already done this); but, we are called to make sacrifices of our time, effort and resources as acts of worship to God (*Rom 12:1*):

- Praise and thanksgiving for who He is and what He has done for us. (*Ps 107:22; Heb 10:25*)
- Doing good things for other people – sharing with them what God has given us. (*Eph 2:10; Php 4:18*)

SUBMISSION & PRAYER (17-19)

- Christians are commanded by the Lord to submit to the authority of their church elders/overseers. (*1 Pet 5:1-9*)
- Pray for the needs of others, individually and with other believers. (*1 Thess 5:17*)

Application

As we have studied the Book of Hebrews, we have seen that there is a tendency for Christians to turn back to “old ways” when they encounter resistance to their new life in Christ. The Christian life is like marathon race, full of obstacles and hurdles that can lead to weariness and discouragement. We are called (and empowered by the indwelling Spirit of Christ) to run this race with endurance, with our eyes fixed on Jesus Christ – who stands at the finish line (Hebrews 12:1-2). Hebrews 13:1-19 is a “Perseverance Checklist” – these are practical things that we need to “keep doing” when we get discouraged:

- Keep loving one another (beware of bitterness) (1)
- Be hospitable to others (2)
- Support other Christians that are undergoing trials (3)
- Maintain your sexual purity (4)
- Be content with what God has given you (5)
- Hold fast to Christian doctrine (7-9)
- Don't compromise your Christian faith in order to gain acceptance with non-Christians (10-14)
- Don't stop going to church worship meetings (15)
- Continue to use your talents, gifts and resources to serve others (16)
- Don't rebel against your church leaders; submit to them (17)
- Don't stop praying to God (individually and with other believers) (18)