"RIGHT AFFECTIONS"

Hebrews 13:1-6

1/19/05

- ***In a society of misplaced affections, we need our hearts to be in the right direction.***

May God give us right affections in the following areas of our lives:

I. CHARITY toward the saints (v.1)
(What affection do you have toward your spiritual brothers?)

II. HOSPITALITY toward strangers (v.2)
(What affection do you have toward people in need?)

III. SYMPATHY toward sufferers (v.3)
(What affection do you have toward believers in adversity?)

IV. PURITY toward sexuality (v.4)
(What affection do you have toward the sanctity of marriage?)

V. SECURITY in the Savior (v.5-6)
(What affection do you have toward money and material things?)

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INTRODUCTION:

One description of people living in the last days is that they will be *"without natural affection"* (II Tim. 3:3; cp. Rom. 1:31)

"Guard your heart with all diligence"

--Beware of adopting the world's twisted, perverted affections.

Many love that which they should not love, and don't love that which they should.

Right ethics and morals always flow out of right values and beliefs. What we believe will determine how we behave!

Heb. 1 - 11 were doctrinal.

Heb. 12-13 are practical.

Chapter 13 offers very specific, practical teaching to aid us in our life on earth.

In verses 1-6, a form of the word *"phileo"* (affection) occurs several times.

V. 1 - *"philadelphia"* - affection toward your brother

V. 1 - *"philoxenias"* - affection toward strangers

V. 5 - *"philarguros* - without affection toward money

- ***In a society of misplaced affections, we need our hearts to be in the right direction.***

May God give us right affections in the following areas of our lives:

I. CHARITY toward the saints (v.1)

(What affection do you have toward your spiritual brothers?)

"As Christian believers, these Hebrew people no doubt had been rejected by their friends and family. But the deepest kind of fellowship is not based on race or family relationship; it is based on the spiritual life we have in Christ" (Wiersbe, p. 146).

"Brotherly love" -*philadelphia* - A brotherly affection; to have the same affection for your spiritual brothers as you should have for your natural brothers.

The day you became a believer on Christ, you were "born again" into God's family. He became your Father, and all people who are related to Him became your brothers and sisters. We became part of the family of God. From that moment on, we now:

--share the same family <u>name</u> - Christian
--obtained the same <u>nature</u> - the Holy Spirit
--live by the same <u>house rules</u> - God's commands
--wear the same <u>clothing</u> - dressed in Christ's righteousness
--speak the same <u>language</u> - the law of kindness and truth
--resemble the same "<u>father</u>" - we reflect the character of Christ
--eat the same <u>food</u> - God's Word the Bible
--inherit the same <u>future</u> - joint heirs with Christ in Heaven
etc.

Do you have a similar affection for your Heavenly family (Christian brothers) as you do for your earthly family?

*A desire to <u>protect</u>
*A willingness to <u>forgive</u>
*An eagerness to <u>share</u> (generosity)
*A willingness to <u>help</u> (assistance)
*A desire to <u>visit</u> (fellowship)

"Continue" - lit. remain; keep on loving your brothers

The implication is that such affection (if we are not careful) can wane and become cold (Jesus warned that in the last days, *"Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold"* - Mt. 24:12).

How do we lose our brotherly affection? In our relationships we allow:
--little offenses to grow (exaggerated and inflated by unforgiveness and anger)
--lack of contact (with each other [produced by preoccupations and sin)
--cliques and schisms (generated by pride)

--ourselves to drift from the Father when our love for God becomes cold, our love for those who belong to Him will also)

Let nothing sever that blessed *"tie that binds our hearts in Christian love!"*

II. HOSPITALITY toward strangers (v.2)
(What affection do you have toward people in need?)

One mark of a true child of God is His willingness to minister to those who belong to Christ (Mt. 25).

Heb. 6:10 and Gal. 6:10 both speak of our ministry to the saints:

Heb. 6:10 - *"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."*

Gal. 6:10 - *"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."*

Hospitality should not merely consist of having your best friends over; rather, as the word *philoxenias* suggests, hospitality is meeting the needs of *"strangers" (xenos)*.

Many missionaries, evangelists, youth groups on missions trips, and Christians pass through our city every year. Have you ever thought of opening your home to them?

In the future Tribulation, hospitality will be most needed (people like Corrie Ten Boom who housed and protected Jews during the Holocaust will be needed).

"Be not forgetful" - Do not go on being unmindful; don't unconsciously neglect hospitality.

Since there were very few inns (hotels or motels) in Bible days (and many of the ones which did exist were dens of wickedness), showing hospitality was an important part of the Jewish home.

For Christians such a hospitable spirit also provided the visitors an opportunity to see what a Christian family was like and to share the gospel. Your home is the greatest setting for evangelism to take place in.

Hospitality involves caring and sharing; giving of your food and material resources; sacrificing your time and energy; putting up with inconveniences; making adjustments of schedule, etc.

When was the last time you went out of your way to help someone in need?

Would you consider opening your home to disciple a new believer? (perhaps once a week for 8 weeks?)

We must use wisdom in hospitality. Ladies, never invite a man to stay in your home alone with you; men: vice-versa.

"Some have entertained angels unawares" - EX: Abraham (Gen. 18); Lot (Gen. 19)

The point is this: You never know who you may be showing a kindness to in being hospitable. Perhaps he might be the next D.L. Moody or Charles Hadden Spurgeon.

III. SYMPATHY toward sufferers (v.3)
(What affection do you have toward believers in adversity?)

"Remember" -A command to <u>focus</u> your <u>mind and thoughts</u> on those who are imprisoned and ill-treated, and picture yourself as such.

It is so easy for us to blank people out of our minds. Out of sight = out of mind. May God forgive us for such a careless attitude toward others.
What God is saying is this: "Put yourself in their shoes."

Imagine yourself in their circumstances. (only then can we sympathize and feel what they feel and cultivate a spirit of compassion)

Because of our oneness with each other in the Body of Christ, what happens to one person, in a sense effects all others. No believer is a detached island all by himself; truly "we're all connected" (that is not just a slogan for NY telephone!).

Such a call to remembrance implies that appropriate action should be taken on our part toward such suffering saints.

--Sympathy should drive us to our knees for others (in prayer - col. 4:18).

--Sympathy should drive us to action to help others (Gal. 6:1)

IV. PURITY toward sexuality (v.4)
(What affection do you have toward the sanctity of marriage?)

"Marriage is honorable" - (an implied imperative) i.e. "Let marriage be held in honor"; or "Marriage should be honored."

The word "honorable" means to be treated with value, by all believers.

Marriage is dishonored (devalued) by:

--deliberate unequal yokes (knowingly) (II Cor. 6)
--polygamous marriages
--homosexual/lesbian marriages
--those who live together in an unmarried state (without a legally recognized covenant before God and witnesses)
--divorce
--role reversals (husbands not loving; wives not submitting)
** --Sexual infidelity (in context here)

The gay agenda today is to redefine the word "family."

There is a media mockery of traditional family values regarding marriage in our society today.

"The bed undefiled" - Let the marriage bed be undefiled.
"Bed" = *koite* - sexual intercourse.

There is nothing sinful about sex between a husband and wife in a marriage relationship (SEE: I Cor. 7:2-5)

Sex is an expression of unity between a woman and a man who are indeed one in holy matrimony. All other sexual intercourse is wrong because it is a lie. In fornication or adultery, a oneness is being demonstrated in a relationship between two people who are not really one in the eyes of God.

God hates immorality so much because it violates His purpose, plan, and picture of marriage.
Marriage is a picture of Christ's relationship to His Bride (Eph. 5). No one has a relationship with Christ who is not married to Him!

Parents: Teach your teens about the sanctity of marriage (Start instilling such principles into their minds at a young age!)

Keep your bed undefiled - No one should ever sleep with you other than your spouse. Sex outside of marriage stains and pollutes the heart, soul, and body of the people involved.

"Whoremongers" **=** fornicators (sexual immorality outside of marriage; primarily used of pre-marital sex).

"Adulterers" **=** One who is unfaithful to his/her marriage vows (extra-marital sex).

"God will judge" -
1) The judgment is divine - "God" will judge (you should not worry about what people will say or do; your real concern ought to be what God will do!)
2) The judgment is future and certain - ***"will"*** It may not come immediately but it will come eventually!
3) The judgment is severe! Loss of joy, guilt, mental and emotional anguish, frustrations resulting in violent behavior, communicable diseases (such as gonorrhea or AIDS), broken homes, and hell fire for those who practice such lifestyles (I Cor. 6:9-10).

(SEE: Eph. 5:3-6 - Sexual sin shouldn't occur one time in the life of a Christian; God's wrath does come on such)

V. SECURITY in the Savior (v.5-6)

(What affection do you have toward money and material things?)

"Conversation" - way of life; character and conduct; lifestyle.

"Coveteousness" = lit. without an affection for money; no love for money (cp. I Tim. 6:6-10, 17)

"Content" - satisfied; view what you have as enough (food and clothing are all you need!) (I Tim. 6:8)

A greed for money reveals insecurity in a person's life; people treasure wealth because it offers them a false sense of comfort and security for their future.

However, our trust ought to be in God; in the Giver rather than the gifts; in the Supplier rather than the supply; in the Provider rather than the provision!

"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" - A clause often taken out of context; its specific application is to provide a substantial reason why we can be content and free from a love for money.

The reason we don't need to worry about money is because the Provider is never going to leave us! Our security is in Him! He is not a Savior who is "here today and gone tomorrow"! He will never abandon or desert us!

Dt. 31:6 - *"Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee nor forsake thee."*

Psalm 37:28 - *For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off."*

Psalm 118:6 - *The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?"*

"The Lord is my <u>helper</u>" - One who comes to the rescue in time of need.

Saying "the Lord is my helper" is to say:

--the Lord is my <u>provider</u>
--the Lord is my <u>guide</u>
--the Lord is my <u>protector</u>
--the Lord is my <u>preserver</u>
--the Lord is my <u>job security</u>
--the Lord is my <u>mortgage payer</u>
--the Lord is my <u>bank account</u>

etc.

"I will not fear" - <u>Faith</u> in His abiding presence (v. 5) expels all <u>fear</u> (v. 6)