

The Promise: Acceptable Worship

Hebrews 13:1-25
Sunday, April 22, 2012

A. Acceptable Worship in Covenant Community (vv.1-6)

1. We should first say that what Christ looks like in community is answered by what God deems good and acceptable
 - a) Remember, we have been reconciled to God on His terms for His pleasure
 - b) So, our pleasure, as the redeemed, becomes to put this redeeming God joyfully on display for the world to see
 - c) It must, then encompass, the clear declaration and demonstration of His character and His work

2. Primacy of love in the body of Christ
 - a) The present
 - (1) Those most immediately in the congregation
 - (2) Hebrews 10:24
 - (3) John 13:35
 - b) The prospects
 - (1) Showing hospitality to visitors
 - (2) Common confession meant common danger
 - c) The persecuted
 - (1) Sharing in sufferings
 - (2) Associate with the persecuted

3. Importance of the home
 - a) Gospel emulations in marriage
 - (1) Purity

- (a) Promoting honor (precious, rare, honorable)
 - (b) Protecting purity
 - (2) Passion
- b) Pursuit of contentment
 - (1) Treasures
 - (2) Trust
 - (a) For life
 - (b) For witness
 - i) Thru suffering
 - ii) Unto glory

B. Acceptable Worship in Submitting to Godly Leadership (vv.7-17)

1. Centrality of the Word of God
 - a) Taught
 - b) Practiced
 - c) Emulated
 - (1) Sound doctrine (Christ-centered interpretation)
 - (a) The left & right hand (Promotion and Protection)
 - (b) Grand biblical narrative (Christ and His redemptive work)
 - (c) Redemptive promises (founded & perfected)
 - (2) Sound practice (Christ-purposed action)
 - (a) His praise offered
 - (b) His provision shared
 - (c) His pleasure pursued

2. The pursuit of mutual joy
 - a) Greatest joy of leaders is to glorify God
 - b) Greatest joy of the congregation is following godly leadership in glorifying God

C. Acceptable Worship in Enduring Gospel Living (vv. 18-25)

1. Centrality of Prayer
 - a) Purity (**Hebrews 10:19-25**)
 - b) Passion
 - c) Constancy (**Hebrews 4:16**)

2. Empowered by the God of Peace
 - a) Reconciliation
 - b) Resurrection
 - c) Eternal Life
 - d) Equipped for everything

3. Advanced through Mission
 - a) The Gospel communicated
 - b) The Gospel conveyed through men
 - c) The Gospel carried beyond borders

D. Acceptable Worship (Christ in Community)

1. So, what does Christ (supreme and sufficient) look like?
2. Are you in Christ?
3. Are you in a Community where Christ Himself is central?