

Pleasing Sacrifices; Hebrews 13:15-16

I. Christianity

- A. We often get caught up in our baptism as an end
- B. We have studied for a while and it just seems like everything leads up to, an ends with baptism
- C. But, in reality, baptism is a beginning; where we put off the old person and put on the new one
- D. Ephesians 4:22–24; 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.
- E. A complete change of person and character necessitates a new beginning

II. Brotherly Love

- A. Hebrews 13:1–5; 1 Let brotherly love continue. 2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. 3 Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. 4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. 5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”
- B. Philadelphia
 1. Named by William Penn
 2. He was given a charter by Charles II of England
 3. Wanting to ensure friendship (brotherly love) between the settlers and the local indian tribe, Mr. Penn bought the land from the local Lenape chief
 4. Mr. Penn made a treaty of friendship with the Lenape Chief under an elm tree at what is now the city’s fishtown section
 5. He named the city Philadelphia from the Greek word for brotherly love
- C. Hospitality
 1. 1 Peter 4:8–10; 8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace:
 2. Romans 12:13; Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.
 3. 1 Timothy 3:2; Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,
 4. Being hospitable is a central ideal in Christianity (Hebrews 13:2)
 5. We are a people who show God’s love to our neighbors through hospitality
- D. Remember
 1. Give careful consideration, care for, be concerned about
 2. Sympathy - having common feelings (I feel bad for you)
 3. Empathy - Feeling the same things (I feel bad with you)
 4. It is very likely that Paul is referring to those who are in prison for their faith
 5. Hebrews 10:32–34; 32 But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, 33 sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. 34 For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of

your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.

6. James 1:27; Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

E. Marriage

1. Honor - costly, precious, of great value, exceptional worth, held in high esteem
2. In today's society, the predominate feeling is that they are temporary
3. "My future ex-wife"
4. A main theme in TV and movies
5. My mother said, before I was married, that if it didn't work out we could always get a divorce
6. Matthew 19:4–8; 4 He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." 7 They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" 8 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.
7. God always meant for marriage to be one husband and one wife, but knowing His creation, He allowed for divorce
8. We need to view marriage the same way God does, for life
9. Two Christians who are focused on serving Christ should be able to navigate ANY marital crisis

F. Money

1. Where do we place money on our list of importance?
2. Paul gives those who are rich an admonition; don't love your money, use it in the Kingdom
3. 1 Timothy 6:17–19; 17 As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.
4. This is a qualification for shepherds
5. 1 Timothy 3:3; not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.
6. Matthew 6:19–24; 19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, 23 but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! 24 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.
7. Money is a tool that God gives us to serve Him

III. Role Model

- A. Hebrews 13:7; Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.
 - B. Hebrews 13:17; Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.
 - C. Look to your leaders (shepherds)
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 10:31–11:1; 31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved. 1 Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.
 - 2. If you are unsure of what you should be doing as a Christian, sit down and talk to one of our Shepherds
 - 3. They are all Godly men serving Christ by serving the Body here at 9th and Columbia
 - 4. You will not see them in the limelight
 - 5. They don't make decisions based on what is good for them, but on what is best for the Body of Christ, here and universal
 - D. 1 Peter 2:21; For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.
- IV. Pleasing Sacrifices
- A. Don't view your baptism as an end, but a beginning
 - B. Put off the old self, put on the new self
 - C. Be a Christian in actions and words
 - D. Look to the Shepherds for guidance