

**Sermon series: *Reminders for a Hard Season***

7/2/23 “Showing God We Love Him,” Hebrews 13:11-16, NLT

**INTRODUCTION** How comfortable are you with not fitting in?

8<sup>th</sup>-grade math-senior yr, Jews trying to force Christians to live as Jews; today heathens trying to force Christians to live as heathens.

praise, thank Him continually (15), doing good & sharing (16)

**MAIN IDEA: Keep rejoining Jesus “outside.”** [where others have no right to go 10] How? Here are four things to do.

**I. First, love our brothers & sisters (1-4)**

**Love: *philadelphia*** = Christians cherish each other as brothers, sisters; from our mutual relationship with Father & Jesus

- A. bypassing differences [world encourages divisiveness]
- B. showing acceptance of individuals, not behavior, in contrast to Romans 1:32, approving wicked behaviors
- C. actively caring for [not enabling] & supporting

**EX #1:** by showing hospitality to strangers...

**EX #2:** remembering those in prison, mistreated (Matt. 25:34-36)... in prayer, by visiting

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**II. Second, honor marriage (4)**

Marriage rates declined 60% in last 50 years. U.S. census: Among 18-24, cohabitation more prevalent than living with a spouse

50% of 1<sup>st</sup> time marriages divorce; rates increase for 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

Adultery: ~25% men, ~15% women; Porn: 25% admit in last month

- A. by avoiding sexual immorality

**Sexually immoral:  *pornos*** = sexual activity outside marriage

- B. avoiding adultery, even of heart (MEV bed undefiled)

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**III. Third, be content with what we have (5-6)**

- A. avoiding the love of money
  - 1. “winds” move us to fear not having it, insecurity
  - 2. “winds” move us to “want”... NCIS & Gibbs, laptops in movies (Apple)
- B. trusting the Lord
  - 1. to be with us (never abandon, desert us)
  - 2. to help us (we need not fear...even people)

**Fear: *phobos***... fear that controls, overwhelms us

**Practical Application:** Think on scripture vs. 6, pray it

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**IV. Fourth, show Christian leaders honor**

**NOTE:** Today society is sowing contempt for authority. Matt. 24:12 lawlessness will grow (NASB, NKJV, ESV)

- A. by following their example of faith when good fruit (7-9)

**NOTE:** Society wants us to disregard them as old-fashioned, outdated, irrelevant, not well informed.

- 1. Jesus doesn't change
- 2. resist “new” teachings... false teaching
- 3. God's grace strengthens our heart
- B. obey & submit to Christian leaders (17)
  - 1. they will give an account
  - 2. they watch over our souls
  - 3. we can help them have joy

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**CONCLUSION:**

**ALTAR:**

Will you join with Jesus, apart from others? If you have, are you uncomfortable? Being drawn back to others?