

# Lives That Honour Christ

Hebrews 13

*<sup>15</sup> Therefore, through him let us always bring God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to be generous, for God is pleased with such sacrifices.*

*Hebrews 13:15-16*

Godliness consists of emotional integrity, genuine compassion, willing submission, and earnest worship. In the closing chapter of Hebrews the writer urges his readers to live godly lives which honour Christ. This chapter alone is a wealth of instruction for those seeking to live wholeheartedly for Christ.

## Emotional Integrity

Integrity means wholeness. The word integrity comes from the same root word as *integer*. If you cast your minds back to your school days during mathematics class, you would have been told that there are essentially two types of numbers. Firstly there are fractions (which are incomplete numbers). Secondly there are integers which are whole numbers. To be a person of integrity means to be a *whole* person. The person who carries unforgiveness or constant thoughts of guilt, or a preoccupation with what others think of

them, is an emotionally fractured person. It is very difficult for this person to truly care for others. The traits of an emotionally whole person are reflected in this chapter.

1. Scan Hebrews 13 and list those verses which would require the believer to have emotional integrity:

Vs: \_\_\_\_\_ Thought: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Genuine Compassion

Compassion is a deep feeling of sympathy for another. It is to somewhat feel how the other person must be feeling and feel a deep desire to help. Note Matthew 9:36; 14:14. Compassion is one of the hallmarks of Christianity.

2. Scan Hebrews 13 and list those verses which would require the believer to have compassion:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Willing Submission

To submit to another implies that we are giving up our position. Its hardly submission when we merely agree with another's position or request. To submit means that despite our differences we are prepared to comply.

3. Scan Hebrews 13 and note those references to submission.

---

---

---

4. Examine the above verses and note how God deals with those to whom we are to submit-

---

---

## Earnest Worship

Worship is our expression of surrender to our God. We shouldn't limit worship to just singing and music. Surrendering our time, finance, talent, minds, and hearts can all be the basis of our worship. For some worship primarily happens on a Sunday when they sing praise to God. For others it happens when they surrender their time, heart and minds to the preaching of God's Word. Yet for others it happens primarily when they quietly pray to God.

In Old Testament (Covenant) times worship was primarily sacrificial. Worshipers brought their sacrifices of animals, grain, and money to the Tabernacle/Temple as their offering.

5. What does Hebrews 13 instruct us about worship? Note what it considers to be “New Testament” sacrifices.
- 
- 

The Psalms are a wonderful collection of worship songs. As you read through the Psalms as a part of your daily private worship, consider how often a Psalm is written as if there are two people praying it. Some have suggested that this reveals the community aspect of worship within the Psalms. Often each verse in a Psalm expresses a thought to God which is then echoed in the same verse using different words. In this way we can pray these prayers to God with the original author. Someone else has developed this thought by stating that since Christ is continually interceding on behalf of His people, it is actually His echo which is recorded in the Psalms. Either way, the Psalms have traditionally formed the basis for worship by God’s people.

6. How do you primarily worship God?
- 

I believe the benediction (good last words) in Hebrews is one of the most beautiful sentiments in all Scripture. Having urged the Hebrew believers to remain faithful and loyal to Christ, the writer now reminds them that God can sustain them during these trying times and give them everything they need to do His will. He also reminds them that their relationship with Christ is made possible through the death of Christ since this Covenant is signed with His blood.

Shortly after this epistle was written Jerusalem was invaded by the Romans in 66AD under the orders of Caesar Nero. He demanded the complete submission of the Jews in what became a 1260 day bloodbath and siege of the city. During the opening days of the campaign when General Cestius marched into the Temple precinct and set up the Roman Eagle insignia as an object of worship, he mysteriously withdrew from the city for just three days. During this time, the Jewish historian Josephus notes mysteriously that every Christian fled the city. At the end of the siege every priest was executed, the temple destroyed and sacrifices done away with. Many commentators now believe that this event in 70AD fulfilled what Christ said in Matthew 24 about His coming to judge Jerusalem. Little wonder the Spirit’s urgency throughout this epistle to the Hebrew Christians to remain loyal to Christ and His cause.

*Amen.*