

## Hebrews 13:3-4

The practical application continues with an admonition to minister to those who are in prison and suffering problems. There is also instructions on the holiness of marriage.

### 3 **Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.**

Two parallel thoughts:

*Remember Them that are in bonds, as bound with them*

*And them which suffer adversity as being yourselves also in the body*

Remember is in the present imperative

- ***We are to have sympathy for those imprisoned (for their faith).***

Presently, in the U.S. believers are not imprisoned for their faith. But, this is not the case around the world. Many believers are imprisoned for their faith. The admonition is that we, though not presently in prison, could very well, one day, be imprisoned for our faith. Thus, we are to minister to believers who are presently unjustly imprisoned realizing one day that could be us.

- ***We are to have sympathy for those afflicted and going through trials (as a result of their faith)!***

#### **as being yourselves also in the body.**

The translations which hold to a strict literal rendering such as NAS, ESV, KJV, Young's Literal add no bias to suggest it refers to the individual's body whereas the versions below render it in such a way as to favor interpretation as an individual's bodily existence (similar to the preceding note by Hughes).

HCSB = as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. (or mistreated, since you yourself are in a body)

NET = as though you too felt their torment.

NIV = as if you yourselves were suffering.

NLT = as if you felt their pain in your own bodies.

Modern Language Bible (Berkeley) = as though you are suffering physically yourselves.

International Children's Bible = as if you were suffering with them.

Comment: While I agree with the "interpretative bias" of the preceding translations, verses like Heb 13:3 make the point that almost every Bible translation brings some degree of interpretation to the translation. Thus it behooves the careful student of Scripture to carefully observe the context on their own so that they can be aware of the bias of particular version. And this is another reason to try to do serious Bible study in one of the more literal translations - NAS, ESV, KJV, NKJV.

[https://www.preceptaustin.org/hebrews\\_133-4](https://www.preceptaustin.org/hebrews_133-4)

<b>1 Peter 4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:</b>
	<b>13</b>	<b>But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.</b>
	<b>14</b>	<b>If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.</b>
	<b>15</b>	<b>But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.</b>
	<b>16</b>	<b>Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.</b>

**Galatians 6:2**      **"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."**

- **How can we be sympathetic?**

**1) Identify with their affliction.**

How would you want to be treated if you were in that situation?

**Hebrews 11:24-25** **By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season**

**2) Be there in time of need**

Oftentimes just being present during a struggle will be an encouragement. Words are not always necessary.

**2 Timothy 1:16** **The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain:**

**3) Give to meet the need**

**Philippians 4:14-16** **Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.**

**Hebrews 10:32-34** **But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used. For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.**

Is not good deeds toward the brethren characteristics of a biblical Christian?

**"By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whosoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?"** 1 John 3:16,17

**"We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren . . . My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him"**  
1 John 3:14,18, 19

"Of course, the open-heartedness of Christian hospitality is liable to invite abuse on the part of unprincipled persons who regard it as an opportunity for eating and lodging at the expense of others. In the sub-apostolic period, for example, instructions are given in the writing known as the *Didache* (DID-uh-kee) (or 'Teaching of the Twelve Apostles') that every stranger who came in the name of the Lord, that is, professing to be a fellow Christian, should be received, but that his profession should afterward be put to the test, and, if a wayfarer, his stay should be for only two or three days. Still more problematical was the appearance of men who falsely, but often persuasively, claimed to be Christian teachers, apostles, and prophets. Anyone whose teaching was contrary to the doctrine these early Christians had received was, naturally, to be rejected; but also anyone who stayed for more than two days or who asked for money was to be dismissed as an imposter and parasite."

Philip Hughes, A Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews, pg. 564

**4) Prayer**

**Colossians 4:18** **The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen.**

**4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.**

*Christians Have Same Incidence of Divorce as non-Christians*

Although many Christian churches attempt to dissuade congregants from getting a divorce, the research confirmed a finding identified by Barna many years ago (and further confirmed through tracking studies conducted each year since): born again Christians have the same likelihood of divorce as do non-Christians. Among married born again Christians, 35% have experienced a divorce. That figure is identical to the outcome among married adults who are not born again: 35%.

**Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**

What is the problem among professing evangelical Christians? In one of the most important biblical institutions there is no difference between professing believers and the world.

The institution of marriage has always been under attack. Probably more so today than ever before.

**1 Timothy 4:1-3 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.**

**1) Is formalized marriage becoming obsolete?**

**Marriage obsolete**

Madeleine Somerville  
Gauntlet Columnist, University of Calgary  
October 23, 2003

"There has been an influx of smart, powerful women into the corporate world and they are not only working for big name companies--they are running them. Women hold crucial governmental positions, are the brains behind brilliant internet ventures like EBay, and are breaking the wage barrier, earning as much in some cases, if not more, than men. With all these changes, does the modern woman even need to be married?

If it's feasible, and for the most part socially acceptable, to cohabit with a partner, share a bed, create children and carry on a life with all the trappings of marriage but without the actual ceremony and piece of paper, the question is no longer why some women choose to forgo marriage, but why so many aren't? Why do so many young women get married when odds are 55 per cent of them will fall apart?

The motives for most aren't financial anymore and, despite the number of weddings still taking place in religious venues, many couples aren't practising a faith of any kind, ruling out religious reasons for marriage. Perhaps they think they've found "the one" and want to make sure they stick around. But surely everyone knows that you can go on TV and find the soulmate you've been searching whole life for within weeks?

Perhaps marriage is yet another social ritual that has lost its meaning, yet for some reason still retains its role in society. Many of us don't know why we walk down the aisle, it's just what's done. As a result, there are countless loveless marriages held feebly together by a wish to protect the children, avoid costly divorce proceedings or keep up appearances.

Wouldn't it be better for all involved if individuals entered relationships upheld not by law, but by love and a genuine desire to spend the rest of their lives together?"

**Barna Report April 2016**

"Practicing Christians (41%) are highly unlikely to believe cohabitation is a good idea, and the stark contrast with those who identify as having no faith (88%) further demonstrates the acute impact of religious belief on views regarding cohabitation."

"However, religious leaders will be wise to notice that a growing number of their constituents — particularly in younger demographics—are accepting cohabitation as the norm," concludes Stone."

## 2) Marriage is a holy institution

June 26, 2015, the US Supreme Court ruled that gay marriage is a right protected by the US Constitution in all 50 states. Calling a union between two men or two women marriage does not make it marriage!!!! Marriage is a God ordained institution and is only between a man and a woman!!!

- Instituted by God - Genesis 2:24 (Matthew 19:5; Mark 10:7; Ephesians 5:31)

**Genesis 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.**

Leave - It has been said that the two best legacies parents can leave their children are "roots" and "wings" - the security of knowing that Mom and Dad are always there to help and encourage in time of special need, but also the freedom to live one's own life and develop one's own family.

Cleave - The Hebrew word for cleave suggests the idea of being glued together. It is used in Job 38:38 of dirt clods which stick together after the rain. It is used by Joshua of a military alliance (Joshua 23:12). It is used of the leprosy that would cling forever to dishonest and greedy Gehazi (2 Kings 5:27).

In order to be "glued" to another you must leave your parents. The man is especially addressed as needing to be "glued" to his wife.

Become one flesh - This speaks of the sexual union that takes place in marriage. Before marriage we are to remain holy. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 (1 Peter 3:7). Men are to honor women in our courtship (dating) by staying sexually pure.

**1 Thessalonians 4 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;**

It is the marriage covenant that establishes a marriage (Malachi 2:14) not the sexual act - **"Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant."**

"It is precisely because of the lifelong nature of the marital, one-flesh relationship that Christ declared, 'What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate' (Matthew 19:16). As noted earlier, it was for the same reason that Paul declared that a husband and wife are bound to each other until one of them dies (Romans 7:23; 1 Corinthians 7:27, 39). In other words the marriage covenant is a life-term or permanent covenant." Dr. Renald Showers, Lawfully Wedded, Philadelphia College of Bible, 1983, pg. 27

- Designed forever - **Matthew 19:4-6**

**And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.**

## 3) Fornication is a sin

Hebrew: *zanah* / Greek: *porneia*

Fornication is voluntary sexual intercourse between a man and woman who are not married to each other. Adultery is one type of fornication.

In every form, fornication was sternly condemned by the Mosaic law among God's people, the Israelites (Leviticus 21:9; 19:29; Deuteronomy 22:20-11, 23-29; 23:18; Exodus 22:16).

Fornication is also mentioned many times in the New Testament (Matthew 5:32; 19:9; John 8:41; Acts 15:20, 29; 21:25; Romans 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:13, 18, 7:2; 10:8; 2 Corinthians 12:21; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 5:3; Col 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Jude 1:7; Revelation 2:14, 20-21; 9:21; 14:8; 17:2,4).

"The Greek word for 'fornication' (*porneia*) could include any sexual sin committed after the betrothal contract. In Biblical usage, 'fornication' can mean any sexual congress outside monogamous marriage. It thus includes not only premarital sex, but also adultery, homosexual acts, incest, remarriage after un-Biblical divorce, and sexual acts with animals, all of which are explicitly forbidden in the law as given through Moses (Leviticus 20:10-21). Christ expanded the prohibition against adultery to include even sexual lusting (Matthew 5:28)." (Dr. Henry M. Morris)

The word "fornication" is sometimes used in a symbolic sense in the Bible, for example, meaning a forsaking of God or a following after idols (Isaiah 1:2; Jeremiah 2:20; 3:8-9; Ezekiel 16; Hosea 1:2; 2:1-5).

"The Old Testament prescribes severe punishment for those who disdainfully regard marriage's privileges and responsibilities. One of the Ten Commandments states, "You shall not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14), and the law required that those convicted of adultery receive the death penalty (Leviticus 20:10).

"The New Testament does not require capital punishment for adultery, but assures that "God will judge" those who are not married who indulge in that sexuality which God has reserved for marriage (Hebrews 13:4). Sexual impropriety resulted in expulsion from the church (I Corinthians 5:1-2), and Paul warned of those who, with empty words, led others into immorality (Ephesians 5:5-6). Eternal judgment awaits those who practice immorality and fail to repent (Revelation 21:18, 22:14-15."

Henry Morris and Martin Clark, from their book *The Bible Has the Answer*

#### 4) **Marriage is honorable**

honourable - τιμιος Tim'-ee-os

Meaning: 1) as of great price, precious 2) held in honour, esteemed, especially dear

God hates divorce; it is the breaking of a covenant and destructive - **Malachi 2:14-16**

***Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.***

***And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.***

***For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.***

#### 5) **The marriage bed is undefiled**

Sex within marriage is good and holy.

#### 6) **...but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."**

God will judge people who have sex outside of marriage whether it is fornication, adultery, or homosexuality.

**Ephesians 5:6**

***Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.***

**1 Corinthians 6:18**

***Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.***

**Ephesians 5:3**

***But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;***

**Romans 1:26-27**

**For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:**

**And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.**