

# Summary

In this sermon, the pastor concludes the 'One Another' series by focusing on Hebrews 13:1-3, which emphasizes loving one another as brothers and sisters, showing hospitality to strangers, and remembering those in prison with empathy. The pastor explains that the Greek word 'philoxenia' means 'love of stranger,' highlighting that Christians are called not only to love fellow believers but also to extend love to outsiders and strangers with genuine empathy—putting ourselves in others' situations as if we were experiencing their suffering.

The sermon challenges listeners to adjust their theology in three areas: how they view people (recognizing everyone is made in God's image), how they view themselves (nothing is beneath us as Christ-followers), and how they view their possessions (everything is a gift from God). The pastor warns against allowing social media to erode our view of others and encourages practical steps toward loving strangers in our neighborhoods and communities, emphasizing that our hospitality should not be transactional but motivated by Christ's love.

## Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your Word today, we ask that You open our hearts to understand what it means to truly love one another and to extend that love beyond our comfortable circles. Help us to see others as You see them—created in Your image and deeply loved by You. Give us the courage to examine our own attitudes and actions, and make us receptive to whatever You want to teach us today. May our discussion lead to transformation in how we love both our brothers and sisters in Christ and the strangers You place in our path. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Ice Breaker

When was the last time a stranger did something kind for you, and how did it make you feel?

## Key Verses

1. Hebrews 13:1-3
2. Genesis 1:27
3. Philippians 2:6-8
4. Matthew 5:29-30
5. John 1:14

## Questions

1. The pastor mentioned that 'love within the church must be given and received.' What barriers might prevent people from fully giving or receiving love in a church community?
2. How does understanding that every person is created in God's image (Genesis 1:27) change the way we interact with strangers or people different from us?

3. The sermon distinguishes between solution-oriented love and empathetic love. What's the difference, and when have you experienced each type?
4. The pastor suggested that social media can erode our view of others as image-bearers of God. Do you agree? How have you seen this happen in your own life or in society?
5. What does it mean to love someone with empathy? How did Jesus model this kind of love during His earthly ministry?
6. The pastor asked, 'Is God allowed to mess up your plans?' How would you answer this question, and what might be holding you back from saying yes?
7. The sermon mentioned the story of Pastor Homer taking in the former Communist dictator who had persecuted Christians. What would it take for you to show that kind of radical hospitality to someone who had wronged you?
8. What practical steps could you take this week to begin loving the 'strangers' in your neighborhood, workplace, or community?

## Life Application

This week, identify one 'stranger' in your life—perhaps a neighbor whose name you don't know, a coworker you rarely interact with, or someone in your community who seems isolated. Make a deliberate effort to connect with them in a meaningful way. Learn their name if you don't already know it. Ask questions about their life and genuinely listen to their answers. Look for ways to show hospitality or kindness without expecting anything in return. Then, commit to praying for this person by name each morning. Remember that this isn't about checking a box but about seeing this person as God sees them—created in His image and deeply loved.

## Key Takeaways

1. Christians are called not only to love fellow believers but also to extend love to strangers and outsiders.
2. True empathy means putting ourselves in others' situations as if we were experiencing their suffering, not just offering quick solutions.
3. We must fight against cultural forces that cause us to categorize and dehumanize people, recognizing instead that everyone is made in God's image.
4. Christian hospitality is not transactional but is motivated by Christ's love, which has already been given to us freely.
5. Loving strangers often begins with small, practical steps rather than elaborate plans—like learning neighbors' names or removing headphones to engage in conversation.

## Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the example You set when You moved into our neighborhood, stepping down from heaven to walk among us. You showed us what true empathy looks like by entering our world and experiencing our struggles. Forgive us for the times we've failed to see Your image in others or when we've categorized people rather than loving them. Give us courage to love strangers as You've called us to do. Help us to remove the barriers we've built and to extend Your radical hospitality to those around us. May we be known by our love—not just for each other, but for all those You place in our path. Use us to bring Your kingdom to earth, one relationship at a time. In Your name we pray, amen.