Open Your Heart’s Door ... to strangers and friends

NO SWEETER JOY

Text: Hebrews 13: 1-3

As the letter to the Hebrews closes, the writer gives them a list of \_\_\_\_\_ directives. The first group of these exhortations deals with our theme: “Open your heart’s door to friends and strangers.”

The first verse [Hebrews 13:1] sets the theme of brotherly love [\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_], and the author urges us to continue letting it flow through our lives.

The writer then briefly defines brotherly love in the form of two exhortations:

I. Brotherly love remembers to \_\_\_\_\_\_ welcome strangers. [v. 2]

The word literally means “love of entertaining strangers” [philozenia], or simply practicing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Strangers refer to the brethren or fellow believers. [v. 1]

As a motivation for this practice, the writer reminds his readers that a stranger just might be an \_\_\_\_\_ in disguise.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ welcomed three strangers who were actually the Lord and two angels [Genesis 18]

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ prepared a meal for the angel of the Lord without realizing his identity [Judges 6]

3. Likewise, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and his wife entertained the angel of the Lord [Judges 13]

D. The Christmas season affords a wonderful opportunity for us to warmly welcome people who are ‘not \_\_\_ friends’ unto our home.

II. Brotherly love recognizes our connection to the Body of Christ. [v. 3]

A. Prisoners

B. The ill-treated