

Discussion Questions

Read Hebrews 13:7-17

- 1. Hebrews was written to Christians who had come from a Jewish background. They were facing persecution for their faith in Christ and were tempted to abandon Christianity and return to Judaism. This is part of what it means when verse 7 says, "Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings." What are some "strange teachings" that you have to be careful about so you don't get carried away from the truth of Christ?
- 2. What makes those "strange teachings" attractive?
- 3. Verse 10 points the readers back to the cross of Christ in order to remind them that the gospel is the best foundation on which to build their lives. What can you do (or have you done) to ground yourself in the truth of the gospel?
- 4. Verses 11-12 briefly describe the Day of Atonement sacrifices from Leviticus 16. Read Leviticus 16:1-2; what does God say about entering His presence?
- 5. Have you ever thought much about the presence of God being a dangerous place? What do you think of that? Why is it dangerous for humans to be in the presence of God?
- 6. Take a look at Hebrews 10:11-14 and 13:11-12; what did Jesus do to give us access to God?
- 7. What does it mean that He made us holy? Are we holy? (Romans 3:21-22)
- 8. What should our response be to this amazing sacrifice of Jesus, according to Hebrews 13:13-14? What are some of the ways we can stand outside the camp with Jesus, bearing the disgrace He bore?
- 9. What is the sacrifice that pleases God, according to verses 15-16?
- 10. How do we do these things? What will you do to do these things? How can we help?

- 11. Verses 7 and 17 speak to us of church leadership. What does that have to do with standing with Christ and not being carried away by strange teachings?
- 12. What do church leaders do that helps us to stay firm in the gospel and live godly lives?
- 13. Steve said that obeying/submitting to church leadership means 1) Obeying God's Word, which they teach you, and 2) following their leadership when they bring forward plans and ideas to help the church grow and spread the gospel. What do you think about this? Are there times when you shouldn't do this? How should you handle those situations?
- 14. What can you do to better support your church leaders? How can we help?