

**Family Baptist Church: Sunday, November 30, 2025**

**What not to Love: Hebrews 13:5-6**

**Practical Advice:**

- Whom to love (vs. 1-4)
- What not to love (vs. 5-6)
- Who to listen to (vs. 7-8 & 17)
- Who not to listen to (vs. 9-16)
- How to worship (vs. 18-21)
- Who to care for (vs. 22-25)

**Introduction**

Hebrews 13 provides practical counsel for Christian living. In verses 5–6, God warns us against two destructive loves: the love of money and the love of human approval. Both are overcome only by the confidence that God is ever-present: “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

**Hebrews 13:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” <sup>6</sup> So we can confidently say,  
“The Lord is my helper;  
I will not fear;  
what can man do to me?”

**I. WHAT NOT TO LOVE - MONEY**

<sup>5</sup> Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

**A. The Context**

The original recipients suffered economic loss for following Christ (Heb. 10:34). Financial anxiety was real, painful, and present—just as it is for many believers today.

Hebrews 10:34 For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.

**B. The Command**

“Keep your life free from the love of money.”

## **C. The Danger**

1. It opens the door to temptation.
2. It becomes a snare that grows destructive desires.
3. It can even produce apostasy (“wandered from the faith”).

## **E. Theological Foundation**

Everything we possess is God’s (1 Chron. 29:11–12; Ps. 24:1; Hag. 2:8).  
We are stewards, not owners.

## **F. Historical Illustration (J.C. Penney)**

The successful businessman collapsed financially during the Great Depression and nearly lost his life to anxiety. In a hospital chapel he heard the hymn “*God Will Take Care of You*,” and God restored his hope—showing him that money was never the ultimate security.

## **I. WHAT NOT TO LOVE – MONEY (vs. 5)**

## **II. WHAT NOT TO LOVE – PRAISE OF MEN (vs. 6)**

<sup>6</sup> So we can confidently say,  
“The Lord is my helper;  
I will not fear;  
what can man do to me?”

### **A. The Real Issue: Fear of Man**

Biblical “fear” includes craving approval, needing affirmation, seeking validation, and being controlled by others (Welch, *When People Are Big and God Is Small*).

**Case Study #1 – Matthew 6:1-4** (You care too much about what people see.)

**Case Study #2 – Galatians 2:11-14** (You care too much about what people think.)

**Case Study #3 – Acts 5:1-11** (You care too much about what people say.)

### **B. The Text’s Declaration**

- *tharrountas* = courageous confidence
- The believer can boldly say, “The Lord is my helper.”
- This removes the need for human approval.

## C. Scriptural Support

- Psalm 118:6 — “The Lord is on my side...”

<sup>6</sup> The Lord is on my side; I will not fear.

What can man do to me?

- Psalm 56:4, 11

<sup>4</sup> In God, whose word I praise,  
in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.

What can flesh do to me?

<sup>11</sup> in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.

What can man do to me?

## D. The Snare of Approval

- Peer pressure
- Overcommitment
- Needing affirmation
- Fear of embarrassment
- Comparison and jealousy
- People-pleasing (“What will they think?”)

## E. Historical Illustration (George Whitefield)

Though wildly popular, Whitefield insisted that his name not be honored. He requested to be buried in a simple grave beneath the pulpit, saying:

“Let the name of Whitefield perish, but Christ be glorified.”

### ***I. WHAT NOT TO LOVE – MONEY (vs. 5)***

### ***II. WHAT NOT TO LOVE – PRAISE OF MEN (vs. 6)***

## **III. WHY WE CAN RESIST BOTH LOVES**

The Promise: “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

- This phrase contains a five-fold negative in Greek—intensifying God’s unbreakable commitment.
- God is saying: “I will NEVER, NEVER, NEVER leave you.”

## **A. God’s Presence Replaces the Love of Money**

If God is with us, we already have what we need (Matt. 6:25–34). Security is not found in possession—but in presence.

## B. God's Presence Replaces the Fear of Man

When God is your helper, people cannot define you or control you. "What can man do to me?" becomes not a boast—but a confession of trust.

## IV. Application: Where do we go from here?

### A. Confront Your Relationship to Money.

1. **Ask yourself where you run for security**—your bank account or your Savior?
2. **Practice intentional contentment** by thanking God daily for specific provisions.
3. **Measure generosity, not possession**, as a sign of spiritual health.
4. **Refuse hidden forms of covetousness**—comparison, envy, lifestyle obsession.

### B. Examine Your Relationship to the Praise of People.

1. **Evaluate whose opinion shapes your decisions**—God's or others'.
2. **Confess ways you seek validation** through applause, social media, appearance, or performance.
3. **Practice unseen obedience**—acts of faithfulness known only to God.
4. **Grow your fear of the Lord** by meditating on His promises:  
*"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear."*

### C. Anchor Yourself in God's Presence.

1. **Replace fear with faith** in the God who never forsakes His people.
2. **Rest your identity** not on what you earn or who approves of you, but on what Christ has done.
3. **Remember that contentment is not having more—but needing less because God is enough.**

## V. CONCLUSION

Two enslaving loves—money and the praise of man—are conquered by One liberating truth: **God Himself is with us.** If God is our Helper, Provider, and Companion, we are free to live with confidence, courage, and contentment.