



## Identifying with Our Suffering, Persecuted and Afflicted Brethren

*Hebrews 13:1-9*

Our Lord Jesus is our sympathizing High Priest who is deeply touched with the feeling of our infirmity, having been in all points tempted just as we are, yet without sin (*Heb. 4:15*). He is not a stranger to the difficulties and sufferings and trials we face in life.

We too, as imitators of Christ (*1 Cor. 11:1*), are to commiserate with those who are suffering greatly. The writer to the Hebrews says, “Remember them that are in bonds [in prison], **as bound with them**” (*Heb. 13:3*). Even though we are not bound, we are to mentally identify with a person who is bound. In modern terminology, we need to step into their shoes, put our self in their place, stand where they stand and see the world from their point of view. All God’s people should sympathize in this way, so that when one member suffers all the members suffer with him (*1 Cor. 12:26*). We may not be suffering personally, but we identify with our brother’s plight.

We should apply the Golden Rule, “If I were bound in prison, how would I want to be treated?” Then we should treat that person accordingly, meeting his bodily needs if possible, and providing encouragement for the soul. The writer continues: “[Remember them] which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body” (*Heb. 13:3*). We may not be suffering as our brother is, yet we are in the body and subject to bodily afflictions whether now or later.

There is probably someone you know right now going through a very difficult time. Put yourself in that person’s shoes. Have compassion and sympathize with what this person is going through, and then ask God for wisdom as to how you might be able to meet some need.

**“Rejoice with them that do rejoice,  
and weep with them that weep”** (*Rom. 12:15*).

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)



## Identifying with Our Suffering, Persecuted and Afflicted Brethren

*Hebrews 13:1-9*

Our Lord Jesus is our sympathizing High Priest who is deeply touched with the feeling of our infirmity, having been in all points tempted just as we are, yet without sin (*Heb. 4:15*). He is not a stranger to the difficulties and sufferings and trials we face in life.

We too, as imitators of Christ (*1 Cor. 11:1*), are to commiserate with those who are suffering greatly. The writer to the Hebrews says, “Remember them that are in bonds [in prison], **as bound with them**” (*Heb. 13:3*). Even though we are not bound, we are to mentally identify with a person who is bound. In modern terminology, we need to step into their shoes, put our self in their place, stand where they stand and see the world from their point of view. All God’s people should sympathize in this way, so that when one member suffers all the members suffer with him (*1 Cor. 12:26*). We may not be suffering personally, but we identify with our brother’s plight.

We should apply the Golden Rule, “If I were bound in prison, how would I want to be treated?” Then we should treat that person accordingly, meeting his bodily needs if possible, and providing encouragement for the soul. The writer continues: “[Remember them] which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body” (*Heb. 13:3*). We may not be suffering as our brother is, yet we are in the body and subject to bodily afflictions whether now or later.

There is probably someone you know right now going through a very difficult time. Put yourself in that person’s shoes. Have compassion and sympathize with what this person is going through, and then ask God for wisdom as to how you might be able to meet some need.

**“Rejoice with them that do rejoice,  
and weep with them that weep”** (*Rom. 12:15*).

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)