

“Brotherly Kindness And Love”

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Text: II Peter 1:7

Theme: To stress the importance of brotherly kindness and love among brethren.

Introduction:

1. Ask: How do you know you are a member of the true church?
 - a. Possible answers (obeyed the gospel; worship in spirit and in truth, etc.).
 - b. John 13:34,35; I John 4:7-11.
2. Ask: How do you know that you have passed from death unto life? (Saved?)
 - a. Possible answers (obeyed the gospel, etc.).
 - b. I John 3:14.
3. This morning/evening we want to talk about love and kindness.
 - a. These are important characteristics.
 - b. Kindness: the ability to love people more than they deserve.

Discussion: Brotherly kindness and love

- I. We are to love the brethren.
 - A. Certainly we are to have love for all.
 1. But we should have special love for the brethren.
 2. In fact, the Bible requires this.

- a. Galatians 6:10;
Romans 12:10.
 - b. I Thessalonians 4:9;
Hebrews 13:1; I Peter 1:22.
- B. And we can know when we are doing this:
I Cor. 13:1-3.

II. Just because we are related in Christ doesn't mean we automatically love each other.

- A. It is not true in the physical realm.
 - 1. Many physical brothers and sisters actually hate each other.
 - 2. Biblical examples abound, such as:
 - a. Cain and Abel - Genesis 4:1-13.
 - b. Joseph's ten brothers sold him into slavery.
- B. Nor automatically true in the spiritual realm
 - 1. Consider: Acts 7:1; III John 9,10.
 - 2. Envy, malice, hatred, etc. oftentimes among God's people today.

III. How can we promote this love among us?

- A. Must put love into action - I John 3:18.
 - 1. Don't just tell it - do it.
 - a. cf. Boy telling girl, "I love you."
 - b. But never willing to buy her something, take her places, etc.
 - 2. Actions speak louder than words.
 - 3. Cf. Physical family -
 - a. Parents protecting, providing for children, hugs and kisses.
 - b. Brothers and sisters in Christ need to be actively in love.
- B. Love begets love.
 - 1. I John 4:19.

2. If we practice love, we will cause others to be loving.
3. Must utilize kind words, kind deeds, etc.

IV. Our love extends to all.

- A. This is set forth by God.
- B. cf. I John 4:2; Hebrews 4:9.

Conclusion:

1. Let us not minimize the significance of what we are talking about.
2. Matthew 22:36-40.

Invitation:

