

8: Brotherly Kindness (2 Peter 1:7)

Second Peter 1:7 says, "Godliness leads to love for other Christians, and finally you will grow to have genuine love for everyone" (emphasis mine).

The last three Christian virtues supplied in this epistle are exhortations to love. In the previous lesson, we learned that godliness is an outward expression of the love we have in our hearts for God. As we will see in this lesson, brotherly kindness is an outward expression of the love we have in our hearts towards our brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Brethren

Read Romans 12:5. In Lesson Three, we related Christian virtues to a wall under construction. Each brick that is laid comes alongside the next to support the wall as a whole. As the body of Christ, we are to build alongside one another offering aid, assistance, encouragement, and support.

Read Colossians 3:12-17. What is the common bond that holds all things together?

"Brotherly kindness" is derived from the Greek word *philadelphia*, which means "the love which Christians cherish for each other as brethren."¹

In Revelation 3:7-13, Christ's words to the church of Philadelphia are recorded. What characteristics of this church are given that demonstrate its brotherly kindness?

Imitating the Lord

Go back to Colossians 3:12-14. List the eight traits you are to show towards your brothers and sisters *as the elect of God*. Compare your list to the description of love given in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

Read Romans 12:9-18.

¹Strong, James: *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order*. electronic ed. Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996, S. G5360

First Thessalonians 4:9 says, "But I don't need to write to you about the Christian love that should be shown among God's people. For God himself has taught you to love one another."

Read Luke 10:25-37. What did the Samaritan do for the severely wounded man? _____

What "cost" was associated with his good deeds? _____

Why should we do the same for our brothers and sisters in Christ?

Read Luke 6:27-36, 1 Peter 3:8-9, and 1 John 4:20-21.

Who does the Samaritan represent? _____

Galatians 6:9-10 says, "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (NKJV).

The Kindness of God

Kindness is affection, compassion, sympathy, gentleness, kindheartedness, benevolence (generosity), thoughtfulness, and consideration. Who do these terms describe? _____

The kindness of God is also described as longsuffering. God's loyal love is forgiving, tolerant, patient, selfless, and accommodating towards His people.

Read Nehemiah 9:17, Psalm 145:8-9, and Isaiah 54:8.

Hebrews 13:1 says, "**Continue** to love each other with **true** Christian love" (emphasis mine). How many times have you pretended to love someone? Or failed to show this love? _____

We are exhorted to *continue to love each other*. How often has the love you have shown been temporary? Is short-term love longsuffering?

In closing, read Matthew 12:46-50.

Add to Your Faith: Brotherly Kindness

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