

Let Brotherly Love Continue

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Hebrews 13:1 Let brotherly love continue.

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

- I. Let brotherly love continue.
 - A. To continue is to remain the same; not to wax and wane.
 - B. It is not to be something that comes and goes, but it always steady and stable.
 - C. Love is the law of gravity in the kingdom of God.
 - 1. Love is what holds the spiritual universe of God together.
 - 2. It attracts pure hearts together and all to God.
 - 3. Its wondrous power overcomes sinful opposition.
 - 4. It is a spiritual love.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

1 Peter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

- D. This kind of love in the Spirit is not extinguished because of personalities, immaturity, ignorance, insensitivity, or quirks and oddities in others.
- E. If we are of the same family we love one another in spite of the things that are not pleasing to us about others, and their oddities sometimes become part of the love we have for them.
 - 1. There are almost always great differences in personalities among members of the same family, but that does not stop them from loving one another.
- F. The children of God are members of the same family.
 - 1. We have the same father, and we have all experienced the same new birth, and we are all sustained by the same nourishment.
 - 2. We are all looking forward to eternity together in the same place where there will be nothing but love and peace and harmony among everyone who is there.
- G. And faith worketh by love...

Galatians 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

- II. But for now we are all living in a sin-cursed world where we float in a sea of envy and strife and hatred all around us.
 - A. This should do away with our love for this world, but certainly not the brotherly love we have for one another.

- B. But in such an atmosphere, and with so much influence from without, brotherly love can be disrupted or severed unless we guard it with diligence.
- C. Brotherly love must be nurtured and protected in order for it to continue.

1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

1 John 3:16-17 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

- 1. We provoke unto love by loving others first and not waiting for them to show love toward us, or do something good so we can love them.
- 2. We must look to the needs of others and truly care and do something about it.
- D. The basis for our brotherly love is not what the natural man bases his love upon.
 - 1. We love one another because we have all been resurrected from death and delivered from sin, which caused it.

1 John 3:14-15 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

- 2. Brotherly love is not based upon the fact that another person is pleasing to me, but that we are of the same blood.
- 3. We just do not stop loving one another because we do not agree on something, or because we find some fault in the other.
- E. Since our brotherly love is based upon the fact that we have been born again into the same spiritual family, then we must have confidence in one another that we have been truly born again.
 - 1. For us to love one another fervently there must be a pure heart.
 - 2. There must be evidence that we have passed from death unto life and that evidence must be enough to support confidence in us.
- F. The level of brotherly love among us is directly related to the confidence we have in the reality of one another's faith and love for God.
- G. Therefore, a local church is a body of believers who have covenanted together to live in righteousness according to the Word of God and spirit of love.
 - 1. The unity of a local church is in accordance with how many of its members are truly born again.
 - 2. Those who are born again will have the same attitudes toward good and evil; righteousness and sin.
 - 3. The unconverted in the church will always defend what is sinful and criticize what is right and holy.
- H. Everything is set in order so that we can manifest to one another, and to those without, that we are the children of God, by our conformity to the moral law of God, faithfulness to his house, and love for his people.
 - 1. These are the kind of people who are easy to love, and to continue to love.

John 15:17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

Romans 12:9-10 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

1 John 4:7-11 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

Ephesians 4:2-6 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Psalm 133:1 A Song of degrees of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!