

OUR BROTHERHOOD

I. We should have brotherly compassion.

- A. Hebrews 13:1.
- B. John 13:34-35 - agape love, sacrificial love, is our command.
- C. Without such we cannot love God (1 John 4:20).
- D. The type of love we are to have is the kind that does not work any ill towards our brethren (Romans 13:10).
- E. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 lays out the manner of love we are to have for our brethren.

II. We should have brotherly concern.

- A. Physical brothers and sisters show genuine concern for one another.
- B. We need to show concern for our spiritual brethren who are suffering in any way.
 - 1. We are to be attentive to those who are sick by helping bear their burdens (Galatians 6:2).
 - 2. We should share with our brethren who are in need.
- C. Not everyone is on an equal financial footing and those who have been blessed will help those who are in need (Ephesians 4:28).
- D. We will reach out to those who are falling behind spiritually and contemplating giving up (1 Thessalonians 5:14).
- E. We will definitely seek out to help those who are being persecuted for being righteous (Philippians 2:21-30).

III. We should have brotherly consideration.

- A. Families are made up of individuals with their own thought processes and ways of viewing things.
 - 1. Parents understand that each child is different and learn to treat them in the best way to bring about their upbringing in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
 - 2. Families are stronger when this is understood by the brothers and sisters as well.
- B. The same holds true in the Lord's church family.
- C. There must be allowance for individual thought and opinion.
 - 1. Brethren should feel free to ask questions without being criticized.
 - 2. Brethren should be treated fairly and equally (Matthew 7:12).
 - 3. Brethren are to be honest in their dealings with one another (Ephesians 4:25).
- D. We need to remember that we are all weak and fail from time to time.
 - 1. We are to be patient with one another.
 - 2. Ephesians 4:2.

IV. We should have brotherly cooperation.

- A. Families usually stick together.
 - 1. If there is a need, brothers and sisters come together to meet that need.
 - 2. If there is sickness in the family, brothers and sisters help one another, even when they have started their own families.

- B. If there are problems with someone or group, the siblings aid one another.
- C. If there is work to be done, the family comes together to help.
- D. Family reunions are looked forward to by brothers and sisters.
- E. We need this same spirit today in the Lord's church.
 1. We have gotten away from cooperating with our sister congregations in meeting work.
 2. We don't support one another the way it once was.
- F. We are not competitors with one another or enemies of one another, but sister congregations all with the same goal.
- G. We should never knowingly hinder another brother's or congregation's work for Jesus (Philippians 1:15-18).
 1. There doesn't need to be any sheep stealing in the brotherhood.
 2. We are not looking to take away members from one congregation to help our numbers - this is not growth, it is swelling.
- H. We are to be tenderly affectioned towards one another (Romans 12:10).
- I. If we would all act this way towards one another, we could much more effectively evangelize the world and build up the church as never before.

V. We should show brotherly correction.

- A. A loyal brother will tell you, not everybody else, when you are wrong.
 1. He won't stand by and let you do wrong and harm yourself or others.
 2. Luke 17:3.
- B. Paul loved Peter and that is why he withstood him to the face (Galatians 2:11-14).
- C. We need to be willing to go to our brethren when they are doing wrong or headed in the wrong direction (Galatians 6:1).
- D. Many have been hurt when their physical brothers or sisters did something hurtful.
 1. Many of us have siblings that aren't faithful or have done harmful or hurtful things.
 2. Did we sit idly by while they did this or did we say something to them?
 3. It is just as vital to do so in the Lord's church with our spiritual siblings.
- E. It may even lead to withdrawal of fellowship (1 Timothy 5:20).
- F. Even when this takes place, we are to still be concerned for the person (2 Thessalonians 3:15).

From an article by John Waddey