

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