

speaking to God's people

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bible studies

Subject: **Walking with Jesus – Pt 7 – Brotherly Affection**

Scripture

Introduction

Commentary

The apostle Peter defined a process to help people to progress as Christians, and so I will be using the pattern he defined in 2 Peter 1:5-7, which says:

*5 For this very reason make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,
6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,
7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.*

We continue on now with the seventh segment of Peter's approach to walking in the Lord, which is Brotherly Affection.

Peter exhorts the disciples of the Lord and ourselves in this scripture to enhance each of the earlier attributes now with brotherly affection. Brotherly affection is an attitude of living in harmony with each other

	<p>so that there is peace between one another. We are, as Christians, the family of God and He wants us to live like a family. As brothers and sisters in the Lord we are to find that relationship where we will help one another in times of difficulty and find peace with each other as a family should.</p> <p>Indeed in the Lord we will find often that our brethren will be closer to us than our blood families, especially if and when our blood relations choose to reject the Lord. So let us continue on to look at some of the aspects of this brotherly love.</p>
1 Peter 2:17	<p>Peter again emphasises the need for brotherly affection and love in this scripture.</p> <p><i>“Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.”</i></p> <p>Honour is an important part of our attitudes and behaviours towards all men. But love of the brotherhood is stronger again for it encompasses the honour we should show to our brethren...plus more.</p>
Rom 12:10	<p>In this scripture we see Paul exhorting the Romans to build the brotherly love between them. He adds an additional dimension to brotherly love in this scripture.</p> <p><i>“...love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor.”</i></p> <p>Outdo one another in showing honour. He is telling the Romans that as part of the brotherly affection should hold for the brethren that it is important they treat one another with honour. No one should ever despise a brother, nor be jealous, envious or wish ill for a brother. Such things do not show honour and are not honourable</p> <p>So honouring one another and treating each other with respect is a part of the brotherly affection for the brotherhood of the church. And this makes sense for it fits with the great commandment and the Golden Rule that says we should love our neighbour as ourself and to do unto others as we would have them do to us. No person in their right mind does harm or evil to themselves, and so they should reciprocate and do the same to others.</p>
	<p>The writer of Hebrews gives us more insights into the working and behaviour that more accurately depicts brotherly love. These are some of the behaviours that can be seen when we apply love of the brotherhood of</p>

Heb 13:1	<p>the church and actively show that love for others.</p> <p><i>1 Let brotherly love continue.</i> <i>2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.</i> <i>3 Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them; and those who are ill-treated, since you also are in the body.</i></p> <p>Brotherly love is about being hospitable, not only to the brethren of the church but also to strangers, for as he writes, we may be entertaining angels unawares.</p> <p>Brotherly love also considers the needs and problems of others and provides help, support and the things that may be needed for the welfare of those who are suffering. All of these acts of charity and love are different facets of the love and affection of the brotherhood.</p>
Philippians 2:1-6	<p>This scripture is perhaps one of the best descriptions of the brotherly affection and love that we should amongst ourselves. When we come together in the name of the Lord these are the attitudes, behaviours and attributes we should embody and show to one another.</p> <p><i>1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,</i> <i>2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.</i> <i>3 Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves.</i> <i>4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.</i> <i>5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,</i> <i>6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped</i></p> <p>Brotherly affection is about coming to a oneness in mind and spirit with the Lord and with each other. It is then about how we show the behaviours and actions that will be the outpouring or outcome of the love we hold within.</p>

	<p>As our minds and hearts are changed and the love of Christ forms within through the working of the Holy Spirit, we have "...God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us," as described in Romans 5:5. The transforming power of the Holy Spirit to teach us the ways of God's love and to bring us into the image of Christ should naturally be seen through an outpouring of that love, which includes the brotherly affection we hold for the brethren.</p> <p>In truth we cannot be anything but what we are, and as we are being transformed into the image of Christ we will naturally show His love for that is what we are as His work progresses within us.</p> <p>And in the scriptures above we see how that should look and how we ought to think, act and behave with our brethren and all those around us. The mind of Christ is being formed within us as we walk with Him and these things will become part of who we are for we will be like Him.</p>
Proverbs 18:24	<p>King Solomon in his proverbs recognised the attitude of brotherly affection and how it extended out beyond familial ties. He speaks about the strongest bonds of friendship as though between brothers in this way.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>There are friends who pretend to be friends, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.</i></p> <p>A true friend sticks by you through thick and thin, in good times and bad and will often give above and beyond because they are your friend. Not because of anything they may receive in return but just purely because of the friendship they hold. And that is the same attitude and behaviours we should aspire to and adopt as we show brotherly affection to our brethren in Christ.</p> <p>The next scripture provides possibly the best example of true brotherly affection in the Bible and it is one that we as Christians can learn much from.</p>
1 Samuel 20	<p>One of the best examples of this brotherly love can be found in 1 Samuel 20. This chapter is devoted to the special friendship between David, who would become king, and Jonathon the son of King Saul.</p>

	<p>Think about this for a moment. David was going to become king and Jonathon knew that would be the case even though by right of his birth, the throne should have gone to him. After all Jonathon was the son of the king and it would be normal that when the king died the throne would go to his son.</p> <p>But we see in Jonathon that he had a great love for David as a friend such that they were closer than brothers. So much so that Jonathon was even aware that David could only become king if Jonathon were to die, and this did not even dissuade him or cause any resentment between them. Jonathon's love for his friend David was so strong, and David for Jonathon, that not even the ascendancy to the throne stood between them. That is how strong the bond of friendship and brotherly affection was between these two men.</p> <p>Jonathon helped and protected David, warning him that King Saul was seeking David to take his life. The two of them had such a strong and profound friendship that nothing could stand between them. Not the throne, not the displeasure and anger of the King and not even death could break their friendship. I encourage you to read this section of scripture and you will see how close they were and the brotherly love these two men had for each other.</p>
So what next?	<p>This is just an introduction to brotherly affection. I encourage you to continue the search for the knowledge of this truth in the Lord Jesus Christ, and please feel free to send me any comments or things you have learned in your own studies.</p> <p>So now it's your turn. What would you like to add to this conversation? Send me an email (link below) or engage with me on Twitter (@JohnBLemmon) or send me a comment on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/FreeGiftFromGod and let's have the discussion continue.</p> <p>Feel free also to send this to others so they can join the conversation. I hope this has added value to your own walk with Christ.</p>

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