

Foundation to Fullness: Part 8

Brotherly Kindness

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Brotherly kindness

- Love we can see

The other elements we have explored in 2 Peter 1 (faith, goodness, etc.)

- have delved deep into the inner life, the personal relationship between you and Jesus. Brotherly Kindness begins to bear the fruit of an outward life in Christ.

Define terms:

- Brotherly Kindness {Phileo-Adelphos}: A fluid natural affection, like that which comes between family members..."The love of brothers"
- As godliness causes us to reflect Christ, Brotherly kindness begins to take our inner life in Christ and express it outwardly! Everything that the Holy Spirit has been cultivating in us becomes outwardly evident as we love one another deeply.
- Don't try to juggle too much: A huge stack of terms seems intimidating, just follow Jesus closely today and see what 'brotherly opportunities' He brings.

Jesus set the example...Hebrews 2:9-11

- 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. 10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. 11 Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.
- So brotherly road is easy, right?

Rubber meets the road

- Brotherly love takes Christ-like endurance...(Ephesians 4:2)
 - *There are many people who we do not naturally get along with; personalities clash, flubbed first impressions make bad starts, and varying maturity levels in the body become muddled and confused...but over all of it we must love. The long-time relationships we form fluctuate, our best Christian friends make terrible decisions [and so do we], your wife or husband does that obnoxious thing again, and your children disobey...but over all of it we must love.*
- Brotherly love must be cultivated 'before we get there'...(Colossians 3:1-4)
 - *All that endurance has to come from somewhere...If we put on a kind face [which is a mask] at the last minute without resting and focusing on Jesus Christ when we hate someone, we're not expressing brotherly love, we're being southern.*
- Brotherly love involves difficult duties...(Galatians 6:1-2)

- *We sometimes have to confront brothers or sisters because we love them, not because we're so much better than them. We do not beat each other to death, but we must continually call each other to biblical repentance before the Lord. Remember that sin is death and Jesus is life: If you love your brother or sister, beg your them to turn from death to life and expect to hear the same for yourself when you screw up. No one likes confrontation, it's hard to do and hard to receive, but Jesus calls us to it. Our love can never be license. Luke 17:1-6*
- *Brotherly love results in great joy and God's glory...(John 13:34-35)*
 - *Brotherly love is actually so beautiful that it might freak us out and surprise us when we see it. Brotherly love looks on racism, poverty, difficult circumstance, disease, and dysfunction and still loves. Hanging out and being a family is great, but our goal is God's glory. Brotherly love is how the world sees us...or doesn't see us...Will they see us honoring each other above ourselves? How will you and I show the world the glory of God through brotherly kindness?*