

Add To Your Faith

“Brotherly Kindness”

Reading—[Romans 12:9-10](#)

Text—[2 Peter 1:3-11](#)

A. BROTHERLY KINDNESS?

1. After growing up with an older brother, this is an oxymoron.
2. These words don't even go together; it's a contradiction.
3. Can you conceive of a brother being kind?
4. In a society where there are so many dysfunctional families?

B. Don't think it's just modern times

1. Cain and Abel!
2. The Story of Joseph and his eleven brothers!
3. The Story of the Prodigal son and the Elder son!

C. How does this fit with the “7 Virtues?”

1. Add to your faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, and now “Brotherly Kindness?”
2. Maybe we need a different picture of what it means than our own experiences and understanding.
3. REVIEW:
 - a. These all go together.
 - b. They are not natural
 - c. They come from GODLY, not WORLDLY perspectives.
4. Definition—(Gr.) Philadelphia “Brotherly Love”

#1 An Outgrowth of being like God

A. This quality follows immediately after “godliness”

1. It is the next step
2. Neither can you skip brotherly love and go to “agape” love.

B. Kindness

1. [Ephesians 2:7](#)—God will “show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”
2. [Titus 3:4-5](#)—“But when the **kindness** (*gr. chrestotes {khray-stot'-ace}* moral goodness) and **love** (*gr. Philanthropia i.e. kindness, benevolence*) of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy...”
3. ***If we are like GOD***, we love one another, kindly, benevolently, charitably.

#2 A Demonstration of being like God

A. Identification

1. “Name, Rank and Serial number” identified soldiers with US.
2. Colors identify students with schools, or members of gangs.
3. Uniforms identify employees with companies.

B. Identifying us with Jesus

1. [John 13:35](#)—By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
2. If you are led by the Holy Spirit, [Galatians 5:22-23](#)--But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control
3. [1 John 3:10](#)—“This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; ***nor is anyone who does not love his brother.***” (Who does that make him a child of? Satan.)
4. If we want the world to know that we are Jesus' church, it will take more than having a sign on the lot that says “church of Christ.”

#3 A Command From God

A. Not a suggestion or recommendation

1. [1 Thessalonians 4:9](#)—“concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;”
2. [1 John 4:21](#)—this COMMANDMENT we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

B. I'm not begging, I'm telling

1. Those who don't need to repent and turn to the Lord, again.
2. It's not a command from Andy, but from God.
3. This is not of earthly origin, but heavenly, if any wants to be a part of the heavenly kingdom, brotherly love is required.