

FAIRVIEW MEMORIAL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

WINTER BIBLE STUDY

February 10, 2015

“Brotherly Love”

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Introduction - I would like to begin with this quotation from the scripture: *“But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more; and that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.”* (1 Thessalonians 4:9-12)

The opening sentence of this scripture seems to suggest that, because God has taught us to love one another, no further instructions are needed. **But we must not deceive ourselves.** Paul acknowledges the love this church had for the brethren in all Macedonia, but immediately appeals to them to increase in that area more and more.

Verse 11, implies the need to learn self discipline; **“Study to be quiet”** and to mind your own business; **“do your own business”.** **We should guard ourselves, so we do no harm to each other;** It is common for Christians to assassinate the character of other Christians while professing to love them. Verse 12, **“That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without.”** People outside our churches have a right to watch our conduct, and listen to our conversations. After all we are described as *“a city set upon a hill that cannot be hid”*. (Mt. 5:14)

Brotherly love is special! And, we are told to **“Let Brotherly love continue”**. (Hebrews 13:1) The inference of this verse is, that it is possible to hinder, even stop the flow of brotherly love.

THE ORIGIN AND SOURCE OF BROTHERLY LOVE

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” (1 John 4:7-8)

Love is the **“First Fruit”** of regeneration in the New Birth Experience. (Galatians 5:22) Jesus declares *“Ye must be born again”*, and regeneration is a term that explains the new birth. When a person dead in trespasses and in sins is born again, he is **quickened and made alive;** (See Ephesians 2:1) that means, eternal life is generated in the heart by the Holy Spirit. Paul says, *“Not by works of righteous which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost;* (Titus 3:5)

Peter says, *"According as his divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby he hath given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature..."* (2 Peter 1:3-4) Then Paul tells us, *"...The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts, by the Holy Ghost, which is given unto us..."* Romans 5:4) **God's nature is Love!** We are made partakers of his nature, therefore we love God and we love one another.

This is **"Spiritual Love"**, not natural affection, but **"Super-Natural affection"**. This love shed abroad in our hearts gives knowledge. *"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren." He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.* (1 John 3:14)

Harper's Bible Dictionary Defines **"love"** as the chief quality or attribute of the Ideal character. This is no doubt correct, because the New Testament describes **"charity"**, (love), with reference to God, and others, especially "brethren", as patient, kind, not jealous, not boastful, not arrogant, not rude, does not insist on its own way, not irritable, or resentful, does not rejoice in that which is wrong, and does rejoice in that which is right. *"Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things. Charity never faileth."* (See 1 Corinthians 13:1-8)

Love to God is the **"highest expressed demand"** of the Old Testament: *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord thy God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."* (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

And likewise in the New Testament, for when the Pharisee Lawyer, asked Jesus, *"Master, which is the greatest commandment in the law?"*, Jesus quoted this very scripture to him. *"Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. (Matthew 22:36-38)*

Then Jesus added, *"And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."* (Matthew 22:39-40)

MANY TYPES OF LOVE

In the Old Testament there is a Hebrew word, **"ahabah"** from which our word love was translated that applies to many types of love. I am not saying that this is the only Hebrew word from which our word love was translated, I'm just saying ahabah applies to all types of love.

However, The New Testament was written in Greek, which has several words from which our word love was translated, **depending on the type of love in the context.** For example: **eros**, for sexual love; **storge**, for family affections; **philia**, for friendship between man and man or women and women; **philanthroia**, for humanitarianism; **agape**, for the God kind of love which is God's nature, for God is love, and also,... for the kind of love that is in the children of God, which was shed abroad in our hearts, by the Holy Ghost, when we were born of God and made partakers of the divine nature. (1 John 4:8; Romans 5:5; John 1:13, and 2 Peter 1:4)

Then, there is the Greek word **Philadelphia** referring to the subject we have under consideration tonight, Love of the Brethren, or **"BROTHERLY LOVE"**. This word is used in the fraternal sense; Our denomination, and especially our local churches are primarily religious and spiritual organizations. But we are also social organizations and have somewhat of a fraternal status.

Fraternity - A group of people sharing a common interest or profession; having the feeling of friendship and mutual support within the group. **We have Relationships with other believers.**

In Romans, Chapter twelve, Paul begins **instructions concerning the practical application of religious service and relationships.** He says in V1. , present your bodies a living sacrifice, which is your reasonable service. V2. Don't conform to the standards of the world; but rather, prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. V3. Don't think too highly of your self. V9. Let love be without dissimulation, which means be sincere; don't pretend. V10. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; (In a kind manner, warm-hearted way) in honor preferring one another. (showing respect) V16. Be of the same mind, one toward another, ... condescend men of low estate, (don't act like you are better than others) Be not wise in your own conceits, (pride of self) V17. Recompense to no man evil for evil,... V19, Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves,... for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay saith the Lord, and V21, Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Brotherly Love may or may not be accompanied by personal affection. But we can still treat each other right. We can be kind, thoughtful, and considerate, even to people we don't have a strong attraction to.

Jesus said, *"Ye have heard it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your heavenly Father which is in heaven: (bear the likeness of your heavenly Father) for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth the rain on the just and the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."* (Matthew 5:43-48)

Brotherly Love was manifested by Abraham, toward Lot and his herdsmen, when he said, *"...Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between thee and me,.... for we be brethren."* (Genesis 13:8)
It's not good for brethren to quarrel and hold bad feelings against each other. Peter said, *"Finally, Be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing."* (1 Peter 3:8-9)

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercy, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; Forbearing one another and forgiving one another, even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all things, put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God, by him." (Colossians 3:12-17)