

Brotherly Love

Beloved Brothers and Sisters

A VERY BIG STUDY YET ONE SUBJECT=BROTHERLY LOVE (WE WOULD NORMALLY LOOK FIRSTLY TO 1COR 13 UNDER THIS TITLE And SO MUCH THERE WILL BE RELEVANT) Please find below 18 main points enumerated in this introduction and we are to look at these in the overall setting of BROTHERLY LOVE-

but the Apostle John writes so well concerning love

Mat 10:16 *Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.*

1Jn 2:9 *He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.*

1Jn 3:15 *Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*

1Jn 4:20 *If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?*

1Jn 4:21 *And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.*

Mat 10:16 *Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.*

1) Rom 12:9 *Let love be without dissimulation.*

We are reading of Judas and the more we read we realise that it was not just greed for money that supported his actions but that the whole of his period with Jesus was a sham. It seems he never entered into the reality of his calling and there is lots written of him that show he never had love in his heart but the most striking is **Luk 22:47-48** *And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a*

kiss?

It seems he was caught up and overtaken by his love for money but it was too late to draw back and whilst we may be appalled by what he did there is yet a warning for us.

Heb 3:11-12 *So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)*

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

And there are many such examples of such deceit and pretensions of love, not to mention Israel themselves.

2Sa 20:9 -10 *And Joab said to Amasa, Art thou in health, my brother? And Joab took Amasa by the beard with the right hand to kiss him. But Amasa took no heed to the sword that was in Joab's hand: (Yes he was unsuspecting) so he smote him therewith in the fifth rib, and shed out his bowels to the ground, and struck him not again; and he died. So Joab and Abishai his brother pursued after Sheba the son of Bichri.*

And all of **Amos 5** and especially v 15 where Israel's failure is shown: *Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of Hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.*

2) Abhor that which is evil;

This requires work with the Scriptures for it is a process of learning and so the plea "Nearer to Thee" and Eph 3:17-19 *That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

3) Cleave to that which is good.

κολλάω kollao kol-lah'-o

From **κόλλα kolla** ("glue"); to *glue*, that is, (passively or reflexively) to *stick* (figuratively): - cleave, join (self), keep company.

The interpretations here give understanding of the meaning as well as

Psa 94:17-19 *Unless the LORD had been my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence. When I said, My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O LORD, held me up. In the multitude of my thoughts within me thy comforts delight my soul.*

Thus the need for earnest prayer

4) Rom 12:10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love;

Joh 13:33-35 *Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you. A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

It is very clear that although we have ties, relatives and start off with friends in this world as we grow in the Spirit so our heart will become knit more closely to those within. Of course even within this circle we may prefer some above others even as Jesus did: Mary, Martha, John we can safely name as special to Him but Jesus loved all.

A real life example:-

1Sa 18:1 *And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.*

We see here natural love so strong that later it became apparent that it not only surpassed that of a woman and a man but it was greater than Jonathan's desire for The Kingdom.

The Apostle John is known especially for his thoughts and directions on Gospel Love

1Jn 4:7-13 *Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. **He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.** In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and He in us, because He hath given us of his Spirit.*

Here attention is brought to the grace and love bestowed upon us as John states in the previous chapter:

1Jn 3:1-3 *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth*

himself, even as he is pure.

When I first showed interest in the Truth I had a very best friend but when I mentioned Jesus and the signs of the Times that was the end of that relationship.

5) In honour preferring one another;

Honour Τιμή timē-tee-may'

From G5099; a *value*, that is, *money* paid, or (concretely and collectively) *valuables*; by **analogy esteem (especially of the highest degree), or the dignity itself**: - honour, precious, price, some.

Referece here to money paid and Christ

Mar 10:44-45 *And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.*

For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

We as individuals have this price upon our heads. Thus in our relationships-our attitude to our brothers and sisters must be with that realization that all are chosen of God and it is incumbent for us to show the same love to them as Christ and God has to ourselves

Php 2:1-6 *If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God.*

6) Rom 12:11 **Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;**

Here is singleness of heart and mind

Jas 1:8 A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

Kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Col 3:13-16 *Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of*

God rule in your hearts, to the which also 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.

Gal 5:22-24 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*

Pro 6:6-11 *Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.*

7) Rom 12:12 Rejoicing in hope;

Focusing on things above and not on things on the earth. It is a complete change from what we are naturally inclined to dwell upon

8) Patient in tribulation;

Rom 5:3-5 *And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

Jas 5:7-11 *Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door. Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.*

Here we learn also that God is waiting patiently also and every day is an opportunity

9) Continuing instant in prayer: This is vital an awareness that God is with us but more that He wants us to express our reliance and perhaps even more our thanks to Him and for the gift of His Son.

Προσκατερέω proskartereō pros-kar-ter-eh'-o

From **G4314** and **G2594**; to be earnest towards, that is, (to a thing) to persevere, be constantly diligent, or (in a place) to attend assiduously all the exercises, or (to a person) to adhere closely to (as a servitor): - attend (give self) continually (upon), continue (in, instant in, with), wait on (continually).

Perhaps it means persistent rather than instant but anyway earnest as :-

Luk 11:5-10 *And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*

Also

Dan 9:2-3 *In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes.*

Heb 4:15-16 *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

10) Rom 12:13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

This, I am proud to say, we do under the help and direction of our elders especially Brother Terry and we have an example of how they coped in the days of the Apostles.

Act 6:1-6 *And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may*

appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

11) Rom 12:14 *Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.*

This can apply within the household as well as outside. In Christ we become very sensitive to what is said. In all our relationships we must strive for perfection. Brotherly love must exist within the family.

Mat 5:43-48 *Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on 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.*

12) Rom 12:15 *Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.*

This is love – empathy/sympathy that comes naturally; fellow feeling, able to feel their pain, hurt or happiness- projecting from self. It is natural to be selfish so here is advocated a whole new attitude. But it reflects back on the thought of “unfeigned love”. Firstly any natural barriers that might be there because of “personality” must be overcome. It is the realization of being called.

1Co 6:19-20 *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

Such a comparison is made **Eph 5:28-29** *So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:*

13) Rom 12:16 *Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate.*

Συναπαγω sunapago soon-ap-ag'-o

From **G4862** and **G520**; to *take off together –as say* a parachutist and a trainee harnessed together

that is, *transport with (passively yield)*: - carry (lead) away with, condescend.

-this implies a complete movement of body heart and soul and mind

Unless we are able to enter into their mind as they see their problems, spouting out Scripture will be no help at all. It is a shoulder that is needed and when rested upon there is a fusion of the bodies and a transfusion of the mind, the one to the other, nothing trite but mere plaintives. Unless we have this empathy- fellow feeling we are better not to try and help - WE MUST BELIEVE IN THE PERSON SEEKING HELP and this is explained in Corinthians.

14) Rom 12:17 *Recompense to no man evil for evil. 1Co 13:5* *Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;*

Judge nothing before the time: Unless we believe in the approaching brother but have a prejudged formulation of him we are not in a position to help.

15) Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

Php 2:15 *That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;*

Obedience to God and the principles of THE TRUTH

Mar 12:14-17 *And when they were come, they say unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not? Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, **Why tempt ye me? bring me a penny, that I may see it.** And they brought it. And he saith unto them, **Whose is this image and superscription?** And they said unto him, Caesar's. And Jesus answering said unto them, **Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.** And they marvelled at him.*

16) Rom 12:18 *If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*

Any failure not to live peaceably will be on the part of a non-believer or the other party. As far as be in you – the limitation will be failure on the part of the other.

There can be no question of our natural will dominating. But the disciples were told that if any received not the Word they were to shake the dust from their feet.

Mat 5:9 *Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. We see in this activity to establish peace in every circumstance-but "as much as be in you" must mean that there is no compromise of the Truth or any principles of The Truth.*

Rom 14:19-23 *Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence. It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak. Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*

There is a difference in avoiding a situation that offends and imposing the will of "the weak" as a matter of doctrine.

17) Rom 12:19 *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*

Need to back out of arguments and adverse situations, sometimes even as the apparent loser thereby justifying ourselves before God but not in the eyes of the one disagreeing with us. However principles of THE Truth must be held but not forced upon others.

Rom 12:20 *Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.*

Mat 5:38-42 *Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.*

Love Your Enemies

Mat 5:43-48 *Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour,*

and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on 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.

18) Rom 12:21 *Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Not to retaliate or respond on the same level as the one we are in disagreement with.

Mat 10:16 *Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.*

BROTHER KEN