

## WE ARE BROTHERS

**TEXTS:** Gen 13:8 *“So Abram said to Lot, “Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brothers.”*

### INTRODUCTION:

1. On Earth there are few relationships closer than that of siblings.
2. Record producers love “sibling harmony” in singing.
3. Siblings grow up and are separated by miles and maybe even don’t communicate often, but there is always that connection.
4. This knowledge helps us to understand why the faithful of God are often referred to in the Bible as brothers or sisters.
5. It tells us something about what our relationship should be.
6. One of the greatest blessings is the brotherly love that exists among the members.
7. *“Let brotherly love continue”* (Hebrews 13:1).
8. It is the responsibility of every member to do everything possible to be sure that our unity, friendliness and brotherly love continues.
9. Notice some valuable lessons from this Bible teaching.

### I. WHO ARE MY BROTHERS?

A. My Brethren are those who are:

- 1) 1 Peter 1:23 *“Born again not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, by the word of God which lives and abides forever.”*
- 2) Romans 8:14 By being led by the Spirit of God through His revealed word, they became “Sons of God.”
- 3) By becoming sons of God they are part of the “Household of God” (Ephesians 2:19).
- 4) The ‘Household of faith’ (Galatians 6:10).
- 5) The church of the living God the Pillar and Ground of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15).
- 6) Those who are separated from the world (1 Corinthians 6:17-18)
- 7) Who have no fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness” (Ephesians 5:11)

B. Who They are Not:

- 1) Those who are walking in darkness and refuse to change (1 John 1:6; 8-10)
- 2) Those who will not keep His commandments (1 John 2:4).
- 3) Those who hate their brethren (1 John 2:9).
- 4) Those who love the world (1 John 2:15).
- 5) Those who practice and teach false doctrine (Called Anti-Christ by John 2:18-23).
- 6) Love them, not fellowship them in such way as to appear to condone their sinfulness (Romans 1:32).
- 7) The prodigal son broke the bond of fellowship with His father but his father still loved him, even when they were not in fellowship with one another.

C. Matthew 12:46-50

D. Luke 8:19-21

E. Mark 3:21-35

### II. ONE BROTHER SHOULD NOT EXALTED ABOVE ONE ANOTHER:

A. Jacob, Joseph being the favorite caused all kinds of problems

B. Matthew 23:8 *“you are all brethren.”* On the same level with one another.

C. The disciples were constantly trying to exalt themselves above each other.

- a) Luke 9:46-48 *Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest.*
- b) Mark 9:33-37 *Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, “What was it*

*you disputed among yourselves on the road?" But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest.*

- c) Lk.22:24-30 *Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.*
  - d) Matthew 18:1 *At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"*
- C. Matthew 20:20

### **III. A KINDNESS TO A BROTHER IS AS A KINDNESS TO JESUS:**

- A. Matthew 25:40 *"And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*
- B. Mark 9:37 *"Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me."*

### **IV. BROTHERS LOVE ONE ANOTHER:**

- A. 1 Peter 1:22-24 *"Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,"*
- B. 1 John 3:13-19
- C. John 13:35
- D. *"We know we have passed from life to death because we love the brethren"* (3:14).
- E. Remember the purpose of the letter is *"That you may know that you have eternal life"* (1John 5:13).
- F. To love the brethren is not the way we gain eternal life, but a test by which we examine ourselves.

### **V. BROTHERS WATCH OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER:**

- A. James 5:19-20 *Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.*
- B. 1 Peter 2:17 *Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.*
- C. Gal. 6:1 *Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."*

### **VI. BROTHERS FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER:**

- A. Immediately after Paul tells us to be kind to one another, he tells us to be: *,tenderhearted forgiving one another even as God in Christ forgave you"* (Ephesians 4:32).
- B. Holding grudges and expressing an unforgiving spirit are sure signs of immaturity.
- C. Immaturity and division go hand in hand in the church.
- D. Brothers who love one another look over little things that are said and done.
- E. We don't have to hash out every little imagined disservice done to us.
- F. We don't have to say and do everything perfectly to get along with each other.
- G. Almost every congregation has at least one person who majors in minors.
- H. They call our attention to every little mistake and they put the worst spin on everything.
- I. Brotherly love continues when an attitude of forgiveness prevails.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Brotherly love, unity and friendliness do not self perpetuate accidentally.
2. They must conscientiously be pursued.
3. Brotherly love will only continue if we work toward that goal.
4. What did I do today to help cultivate an atmosphere of love?