

# THE IMPORTANCE OF BROTHERLY LOVE

by Jeff Rath 7-98

Sometimes when the love of God [agape] is taught, it is contrasted with brotherly love [phileo], and sometimes brotherly love is berated and described as something that is undesirable. Brotherly love is a necessary componet in the Christian walk.

**John 5:20** For the Father loveth [phileo] the Son, and showeth him all things that himself doeth: and he will show him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

**John 16:27** For the Father himself loveth [phileo] you, because ye have loved [phileo] me, and have believed that I came out from God.

God loves us with brotherly love [phileo] as well as divine love [agapao]. This surprised me - I did not expect to see this.

**James 2:23** And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend [philos] of God.

God was Abraham's friend, He had a personal brotherly love relationship with Abraham. This helped build Abraham's believing in God.

**John 15:13** Greater love [agape] hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. [philos]

**John 15:14** Ye are my friends, [philos] if ye do whatsoever I command you.

**John 15:15** Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; [philos] for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

The Lord Jesus Christ was personal friends with his disciples and apostles; he had a brotherly love relationship with them. Jesus Christ loved his followers with divine love [agape] and with brotherly love [phileo].

**Acts 28:2** And the barbarous people showed us no little kindness: [philanthropia] for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold.

Here the barbarians were helpful to this group of shipwrecked people; they showed them brotherly love.

**John 21:1** After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise showed he *himself*.

**21:2** There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the *sons* of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples.

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**21:3** Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

**21:4** But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.

**21:5** Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.

**21:6** And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

**21:7** Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt *his* fisher's coat *unto him*, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.

**21:8** And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes.

**21:9** As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.

**21:10** Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.

**21:11** Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.

**21:12** Jesus saith unto them, Come *and* dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

**21:13** Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.

**21:14** This is now the third time that Jesus showed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.

**21:15** So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest [agapao] thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love [phileo] thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

**21:16** He saith to him again the second time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest [agapao] thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love [phileo] thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

**21:17** He saith unto him the third time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest [phileo] thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest [phileo] thou me? And

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he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love [phileo] thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Jesus Christ was trying to bring Peter up to the standard and level of the divine love of God, but Peter wasn't ready; he was at the level of brotherly love. Sometimes we have to love people with brotherly love [phileo] before they are ready to receive the divine love of God [agapao].

**1 Peter 3:8-9 (The Amplified Bible)** Finally, all [of you] should be of one *and* the same mind [united in spirit], sympathizing [with one another], loving [each other] as bretheren [of one household], compassionate *and* courteous (tenderhearted and humble).

**3:9** Never return evil for evil or insult for insult (scolding, tongue lashing, berating), but on the contrary blessing [praying for their welfare, happiness, and protection, and truly pitying and loving them]. For *know that* to this you have been called, that you may yourselves inherit a blessing [from God—that you may obtain a blessing as heirs, bringing welfare and happiness and protection].

We should be as brothers and sisters who are of the same family, who live in the same household together. We are compassionate, tenderhearted and humble to each other in the family and household of God. We do not return evil for evil or engage in bitter abusive verbal attacks on other believers.

**Romans 12:10** Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; [philadelphia] in honour preferring one another;

**1 Thessalonians 4:9** But as touching brotherly love [philadelphia] ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love [agapao] one another.

Again, we need brotherly love and God's divine love in the family and household of God.

**Hebrews 13:1** Let brotherly love [philadelphia] continue.

It is a commandment of God to let brotherly love continue.

**1 Pet 1:22** Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, [philadelphia] *see that ye* love [agapao] one another with a pure heart fervently:

**1:23** Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

We do not pretend to have brotherly love for each other; we do not just tolerate each other in God's family and household, we are to have a genuine brotherly love for each other.

**2 Peter 1:1** Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour

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Jesus Christ:

**1:2** Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

**1:3** According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

**1:4** Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

**1:5** And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

**1:6** And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

**1:7** And to godliness brotherly kindness; [philadelphia] and to brotherly kindness charity. [agape]

It says here that we must have brotherly kindness [phileo] and God's divine love [agapao].

**1:8** For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**1:9** But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

**1:10** Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

**1:12** Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know *them*, and be established in the present truth.

This section of II Peter lists nine things that are necessary in each believer's life. If we have all nine, then we will be fruitful. If we do not have all nine, we will become blind so that we cannot see afar off, and we will forget that we were purged from our old sins. If we have all nine, then we will never fall. This is God's present truth for this day and this time. Anyone who says that we don't need brotherly love in our Christian walk will at best have only eight of nine qualities needed, and they will fall short of the standard of the Word of God.

***Galations 6:10*** As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

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