

## “LET BROTHERLY LOVE CONTINUE”

**Hebrews 13:1** is made up of only four words — the four that serve as the title and theme of this article. Perhaps you have heard someone jokingly misquote the verse to read, “Let brotherly love begin.” It is true that brotherly love must begin to exist before it can “continue,” but the absence of such love is no joking matter.

Is it not a huge plus for the Lord’s Cause when His people have a genuine brotherly love among them? Here are a few pluses or positive things that take place when brotherly love continues to abound among the members of God’s church.

**Brotherly love sends a message.** Jesus said, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:35).

**Brotherly love hides a multitude of sins.** “And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins” (I Peter 4:8).

**Brotherly love takes action,** rather than just sit on the sideline and just talk or simply offer suggestions. “But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth” (I John 3:17,18).

**Brotherly love helps provide a healthy atmosphere** because love “is kind,” “envieth not,” “vaunteth not itself,” and “is not puffed up” (I Cor. 13:4).

**Brotherly love presents an attractive picture to small kids and teens that observe it,** including our own children and grandchildren. How can brotherly love not make a good impression on them when it can honestly be

said that “the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth” (II Thess. 1:3)?

**Brotherly love binds Christians together.** Since we, as members of the church, have the same Father, we are family (Gal. 3:26-27). That means because we are “kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love” (Rom. 12:10), we hurt when our spiritual family members hurt. We share in their joys. We seek to comfort one another (Rom. 12:15; I Thess. 4:18).

**Brotherly love causes us to be determined to handle personal conflicts properly** (in the way the Lord instructs us). Jesus says for us to “go and tell” the brother that has offended us (Matt. 18:15-17).

**Brotherly love reminds us of just how wonderful heaven will be.** “Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face...” (I Thess. 3:10). Just as the apostle Paul longed to see his brethren in this life, so we look forward to being reunited with the saints of God in heaven, where we will worship Him forever and never again be separated from our faithful brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Surely every disciple of Jesus enjoys being on the receiving end of brotherly love. But are you and I also on the giving side of such love? Do we really demonstrate genuine love toward our brethren in the Christ? “Let brotherly love continue.” It pays huge dividends.

### **Roger D. Campbell from *Seek The Old Paths***

*“Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.”*

**Proverbs 10:12**

*“He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.”*

**Proverbs 17:9**

*“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.”*

**1 Peter 4:8**

## REAL HUMILITY

A preacher once said, “I used to think that God’s gifts were on shelves, one above the other, and that the bigger and taller we were the easier we could reach them. I find now that God’s blessings are on shelves, one beneath another and that God’s best are on the lower shelves. It would therefore behoove us to stand high only by bending in humility to find God’s richest blessing!”

The greatest of men are those who will humble themselves to the will of God. **Proverbs 16:19** says, “**Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.**” **Matthew 23:12** says, “**And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.**” Real humility is the attitude and character of spirit that does not seek to push self above and beyond others.

Paul gave a wonderful lesson in **Philippians 2:5-8**: “**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: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.**”

We would all do well to examine our own humility. Do we seek to please self or God? A question to think about.

### **Toney L. Smith**

*“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another”*

**Romans 12:10**

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

Curtis and Paula Stillwell, 06-09;  
Dave and Joy Parish, 06-14.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Kristen Bright, 06-10; Steven Brown, 06-14.

## **ILL**

Debra Gragg's sister had a stroke on May 29 and is in a rehabilitation center for treatment. Tom Tucker had a pacemaker replacement procedure on June 3rd. Francis Thrasher had outpatient foot surgery on June 6th.

**Those battling cancer:** David Cole, Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph Franklin.

## **HOME BOUND**

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## **OUT OF TOWN**

The Schleif's were in Minneapolis, MN last week. Debra Gragg was in Augusta, KS area visiting relatives last weekend. John and Louise Dodson are visiting relatives in Arkansas at this time. The Stillwell family is vacationing in Orlando, FL this week. Leah Hempelmann is on a mission trip in Peru this week.

## **MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING**

Our regularly scheduled Men's Business Meeting will be held this Sunday, June 8 following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

## **FAMILY BIBLE STUDIES**

The theme this year is: "*Walking In Son Light.*" The dates are July 28 – August 1. Plan to be here every night!

## **ATTENDANCE**

Sunday AM, 48; Sunday PM, 34; Wednesday PM, 31.

## **Those To Serve**

June 8, 2008

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Thrasher**

### **MORNING WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas**  
**SONG LEADER..... Steve Brown**  
**OPENING PRAYER ..... Jeff Nemechek**  
**PRESIDE..... John Cody Carter**  
**ASSIST..... Joel Nelson**  
**ASSIST..... Dave Parish**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson**

### **EVENING WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER ..... Chris Edwards**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Trent Thrasher**  
**LORD'S SUPPER..... John Cody Carter**

### **WEDNESDAY 11th**

**SONG LEADER..... George Thomas**  
**INVITATION ..... Jeff Nemechek**

## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **Sunday**

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### **Wednesday**

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**

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