

BOOK OF 2 PETER
MATURING IN CHRIST
ADD TO GODLINESS BROTHERLY KINDNESS
2 PETER 1:1-10

Introduction

We've been studying this passage for quite a few weeks now and have been learning what it takes to mature as a Christian and to become effective in our Christian walk.

One problem in many of our Churches today is that **Spiritual immaturity** is prevalent among God's people. There are many believers who should have grown up by now, but they haven't. There are too many believers who think they are grown up, but are still acting like little children in their walk.

Thus far we've seen that we:

- 1) We Must First **Have A Firm Foundation Of Saving Faith!**
- 2) We Must Be **Spiritually Diligent** About Adding To Our Faith Or Growing Spiritually!
- 3) We Must Add **Virtue** (*The Desire To Do What Is Right*) To Our Faith!
- 3) We Must Add **Knowledge Of What Is Right** To That Virtue.
- 4) Then We Must Add To That Knowledge, **Temperance—The Self-Discipline Or The Determination To Do What Is Right.**
- 5) Then After Temperance We Must Add **Patience—Or The Spiritual Endurance To Keep On Doing What Is Right When We Are Challenged Or Opposed.**
- 6) And Last Week We Saw That After Patience We Must Add, **Godliness—A Devotion To God Which Results In A Life That Is Pleasing To Him.**

Tonight we see that to **Godliness we must add Brotherly Kindness.**

The first **five virtues pertain to the Christian's inner life and relationship to God.**

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These last two that we will look at this week and, Lord willing, next week **relate to our relationship with other people.**

What is Brotherly Kindness?

Brotherly kindness is translated from the Greek word "*philadelphia*" which is translated elsewhere in the Scripture as "*brotherly love*" and means a **practical caring for others as you would for a family member.**

Hebrews 13:1—*"Let brotherly love continue."*

We live in a cold, lonely, impersonal society where **those who take time to care for others are the exception rather than the rule.**

Within the Local Church, **caring for others, especially brothers and sisters in Christ should be the rule not the exception.**

When we received the Lord Jesus as our Saviour, we not only entered into a relationship with Him, but with every other believer.

If we are going to be serious about our spiritual growth then we must demonstrate "*Brotherly Kindness*".

How do we do accomplish that?

I believe we accomplish that by making sure that **our care for one another is marked by three things.**

I. OUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER SHOULD BE MARKED BY HONESTY!

A. Honest Love Is Authentic Love! (1 Peter 1:22)

Here Peter reminds his readers that their redemption, their salvation resulted in them having an "*unfeigned love of the brethren*".

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Underline the word "*unfeigned*". To *feign* something is to pretend.

Peter uses a term that literally means "*without hypocrisy*."

We could say that this love is to be *genuine or authentic*!
Look at **Romans 12:9-10**

B. Honest Love Is Active Love! (1 John 3:17-18)
To **love in deed and in truth** means that **our love and caring for one another must be both authentic and active.**

Did you know that most people who are searching for a church home say. "*We want a church where people really care about each other.*"

Many people who leave their Church and go across to a nearby Church or maybe even quit Church altogether, do so because something happens where they no longer feel appreciated or cared for.

I believe that every Church should strive to be a caring Church. However, **caring Churches are made up of caring individuals.**

Caring individuals honestly seek to meet one another's needs.

OUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER SHOULD BE MARKED BY HONESTY!

II. OUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER SHOULD BE MARKED BY HEALING.

When I say "*healing*", I am saying that in the sense of us "*bearing one another's burdens.*"

True "*brotherly love*" reaches out to those who are hurting.

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Look with me to **Galatians 6:1-2.**

Note the law of Christ: *John 13:34-35*—"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."

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

Just like the story Jesus told in **Luke 10** about the Good Samaritan, we need to respond to each other with the kind of caring that says "*when my brother is hurting, I'm going to do what I can do to take care of him.*"

A. We Won't Have A Healing Love If We Are Self Centered!
Remember in the parable of the Good Samaritan, the man who was robbed, wounded, and left for dead was passed by a "*Priest*" and a "*Levite*".

Both were busy, important men. Perhaps their minds were absorbed with their jobs in the Temple.

Far too often we fail to care for those who are hurting because we don't want any interruption in our own plans.

B. We Won't Have A Healing Love If We Stay Isolated From Others!

People in Church are often masters at this. Many times we make small talk and speak superficially to people without really getting to know them because we are afraid of getting involved with other people and their needs.

We can't come to know others or their needs by staying isolated from them or distant from them.

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C. We Won't Have A Healing Love If We Don't Listen When Someone Expresses A Need!

One woman was fed up with the superficial level of communication in her Church, so she conducted an experiment. To everyone who passed her in the hallways and asked, "How are you?" she replied, "Lousy!"

Some people didn't even hear what she said. Some said, "I'm sorry to hear that" but no one asked her why or asked if they could be of help to her.

We must learn to listen to folks who have needs!

D. We Won't Have A Healing Love If We Think Someone Else Should Be The One To Help!

When some people hear about a problem in another persons life, the first thing they do is call the Pastor.

That's OK, but have you ever thought **allowing the Lord to use you to help meet a need in someone's life?**

Listen, **each of us has a responsibility to demonstrate love.**

God may make **you** aware of a need because He wants to use **you** in the process of meeting the need.

E. We Won't Have A Healing Love If We Think Problems Will Solve Themselves!

In our thoughts we say, *"Don't get involved! They'll work it out."*

Just because we may have been able to work through a similar situation doesn't mean someone else will be able to do the same thing.

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Let's have a love that is Honest, A love that is Healing, and then finally. . .

III. OUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER SHOULD BE MARKED BY HUMILITY!

Humility? What does humility have to do with demonstrating "brotherly love?"

Humility must be a part of this equation because **PRIDE WILL KEEP US FROM DOING WHAT BROTHERLY LOVE REQUIRES.**

A. Brotherly Love Requires That We Try To Right Our Wrongs!

Matthew 5:24—"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."
Brotherly Love Requires That We Try To Right Our Wrongs!

B. Brotherly Love Requires That We Try To Reconcile When Others Have Offended Us!

Matthew 18:15-17—"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."

C. Brotherly Love Requires That We Forgive Others When We've Been Offended!

Matthew 18:21—"Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven."

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Colossians 3:12-13—“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one nother, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”

Conclusion:

Two men were heading by dog sled to their outpost in Alaska. They were both in danger of freezing to death. As they were going along, they came upon someone who was apparently nearly frozen. One said to the other, "Let's stop and help him." The other said, "No, if we stop and help him, we will surely freeze to death and never make it."

The one who wanted to help said, "Let me off here and you go ahead." He got off the dog sled as his companion continued. He tried to revive the dying man by massaging his arms and legs in order to get the blood circulating in his body.

The effort he expended in massaging the man's limbs gave him the physical heat that he needed to keep from freezing to death. The snowstorm was soon over and the two were safe, but down the path was a dead man with a dog sled who was all alone. It was his companion who continued ahead alone.

Listen, we are never more like Jesus than when we exhibit compassion.

We can love each other because we have been loved so greatly.

Have you experienced that love?

If not you can experience that love tonight?

If you have experienced that love, are you showing it to others and sharing it with others?