

# Love One Another

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Introduction: Do you remember Olivia Watkins, Tobias Le Fear and Nathan Smelser? Do you realize it has been about 15 years since we last seen them? How about Justin Padgett, Steven Barrell, or the Gaspers? They have been gone nearly 17 years now. Brings back memories doesn't it?

Why do you think the mention of their names brings a smile to our face? Good times with good brethren weren't they? Our brethren past or present have touched our lives.

When Paul left the brethren in Miletus, they were all personally touched (Acts 20:37-38).

In today's lesson, we will talk about the love we should have for one another.

I. Jesus gave a new command to love one another (John 13:34-35).

A. It wasn't a new command that they never heard before (Lev. 19:18). It was a new command because of the change in the depth and scope of the love God wants us to have for one another.

B. In the Old Testament the command to love your neighbor was from the Hebrew word "Aheb." Vines defines it as "a brotherly or friendly kind of love."

C. However, Christ commands us to have agape love for our brethren (1 Cor. 13:4-8a). In fact, Christ so loved his own (John 13:1).

II. Brotherly love is a sign of our discipleship (John 13:35).

A. We must be righteous as well as loving to our brethren (1 John 3:10-11).

B. We know that we are saved because of our love for the brethren (1 John 3:14-15).

C. We know this kind of love because Christ gave His life for us as we should be willing to do for our brethren (1 John 3:16).

D. But as a practical matter, if we won't help a brother in need, can we say we love our brethren (1 John 3:17-18)?

E. If we hate our brethren, can we say we love God (1 John 4:20-21)?

III. You might be thinking, "I just can't love brother 'Obnoxious.' I've tried but it is too hard." Consider Luke 6:32-36.

IV. Brotherly love is an attitude or state of mind that produces feelings of respect, concern, compassion and loyalty for our fellow brethren (1 Pet. 3:8-9).

A. “Be **kindly affectionate** to one another with brotherly love, in honor **giving preference** to one another” (Rom. 12:10).

B. “Owe no one anything except to love one another, for **he who loves another has fulfilled the law**” (Rom. 13:8).

C. “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, **bearing with one another in love**” (Eph. 4:1-2).

D. “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” (1 Pet. 1:22).

V. God dwells (or abides) with those who love one another (1 John 4:12).

A. Love is of God (1 John 4:7-11). If we can’t love one another, can we love God?

B. Peter says if we abound in the things that build us up including brotherly love we will not be unfruitful (2 Pet. 1:5-11). Maybe a lack of love for the brethren is a reason why some churches don’t grow.

Conclusion: I’m not saying we don’t love our brethren. I’ve seen some of the most uplifting expressions of love among our brethren. However, I think there is room for improvement. Understand we can’t go to heaven if we don’t love our brethren.