

LET BROTHERLY LOVE ABOUND
(1 John 3:14-19)

I. It is a sign of our salvation and of the promise of eternal life (vs. 14-15).

- A. John 13:34-35.
 - 1. This was stated the night of the arrest of Jesus.
 - 2. He told His apostles that all men would know who His disciples were because they would love their brethren.
 - 3. The converse of this is true as well.
 - 4. People will know we are not disciples of Jesus when we fail to love our brethren.
- B. When we keep this command of Jesus, we know we abide in Him and He in us (1 John 3:23-24).
- C. God abides in us as well when we love our brethren (1 John 4:12).
- D. Love is a badge of discipleship to others and lets us know we are saved because we love our brethren as Jesus commanded.
- E. Involved in loving our brethren is living a life that is exemplary in order to be a proper example to them.
 - 1. If we bring our brethren down in sin we don't truly love them.
 - 2. Thus, loving our brethren means living right and teaching right.

II. It is a reflection of the God's love and our love for God (vs. 16).

- A. God's example of love motivates us to love others (1 John 4:7-11).
 - 1. We don't truly know God if we don't love our brethren.
 - 2. We don't have eternal life if we don't know God (John 17:3).
- B. If we can't show love towards brethren, we can't show love towards God (1 John 4:20-21).
- C. The example of love has been set for us (John 15:12-14).
 - 1. We can't be a friend of Jesus without brotherly love.
 - 2. He can't save us if we aren't His friend.

III. It is a sacrifice that must be made (vs. 17).

- A. The love we show is a servile love (Galatians 5:13).
 - 1. The Greek word itself indicates sacrifice.
 - 2. We sacrifice or serve the ones we love.
- B. If we want to be blessed, we have to bless others (1 Peter 3:8-9).
- C. As mentioned earlier, we would never do anything to cause our brethren to stumble (1 John 2:10-11).
- D. If we must be willing to die for our brethren, we should certainly be willing to sacrifice lesser things for them.

IV. It is a work that must be done (vs. 18).

- A. Loving our brethren is not optional (John 15:17).
 - 1. It is not something that we can do now and again.
 - 2. It is an all the time requirement.
 - 3. I'm thankful God did command us to love our brethren.
- B. Notice how Peter says we are to love (1 Peter 1:22).
- C. Philemon gave us a tremendous example of this (Philemon 7).
 - 1. No doubt he did not like everyone or everything about everyone.

2. He still loved his brethren.
3. I do things that you may not like, but you still have to love me and treat me right.
4. You do things I don't like at times, but I still have to love you and treat you right.

V. It allows us to know we are of the truth (vs. 19).

- A. We are following God as children when we love one another (Ephesians 4:31-5:2).
- B. We speak the truth in love so that we can grow (Ephesians 4:15).
- C. When we love as God commands, we can have confidence in regard to our salvation (1 John 4:16-17).

From a sermon by Kevin Cauley