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 an 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 like 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