

## A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST OF BROTHERLY LOVE

Text: Rom. 12:9-16

- Three truths about growing brotherly love in the body of Christ:
- I. **THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF BROTHERLY LOVE (vs. 9)**
  - The contaminate of brotherly love = dissimulation.
    - “Dissimulation” = \_\_\_\_\_, pretending, insincerity.
  - Four deadly blends:
  - A. **The dissimulation of \_\_\_\_\_.**
    - Pretending to love and care about people when we really don’t.
  - B. **The dissimulation of \_\_\_\_\_.**
    - Adulation = praise
    - Fake praise or \_\_\_\_\_ is another type of hypocrisy in dealing with people.
  - C. **The dissimulation of \_\_\_\_\_.**
    - Pretending to love people to their \_\_\_\_\_ when we really can’t stand them and are talking bad about them behind their backs (“backstabbing”).
  - D. **The dissimulation of \_\_\_\_\_.**
    - We can’t love people with the sincere love of the Spirit if we’re living in \_\_\_\_\_, so we will have to put on a fake front.
    - Covering sin = the ultimate hypocrisy in the Christian life.
- II. **THE \_\_\_\_\_ FOR BROTHERLY LOVE (vs. 10A)**
  - The right climate for brotherly love is an environment of tender family \_\_\_\_\_ toward others in body.
  - “Be kindly affectioned” = most literally, “a lover of family affection”
    - Family affection = tender \_\_\_\_\_ that should naturally exist between members of same family.
    - The negative of this word, “without natural affection,” is used to describe the \_\_\_\_\_ depravity of people in the Last Days.
- III. **THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF BROTHERLY LOVE (vs. 10B, 13, 15-16)**
  - 1 Thess. 4:9-10: Brotherly love is put within us by God, and now we are to let it \_\_\_\_\_ more and more and bring forth beautiful fruit in our lives and actions toward others.
  - Six demonstrations of brotherly love in action in this passage:
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 10b)
    - “In honor” = w/ an attitude of honor and respect for your brother.
    - “Preferring one another” = to let others go \_\_\_\_\_ you (Mark 10:31, 9:35).

- B. \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 13a)
    - “Necessity” = needs
    - “Distributing” = sharing through giving.
    - The best way to distribute = not ostentatiously but \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 6:3-4).
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 13b)
    - “Given to” = to follow after or pursue w/ diligence; make showing hospitality a \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Hospitality = inviting others into your home and treating them like your own family in your home for fellowship or to meet needs.
  - D. \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 15)
    - Sympathy = to share the \_\_\_\_\_ of another.
    - Best illustration: “Jesus wept” (John 11:33-35)
  - E. \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 16a)
    - “Being of the same mind” = sharing the mind of Christ.
    - “Toward one another” reminds us that being of same mind doesn’t mean we agree all the time on everything but describes how we treat others when we \_\_\_\_\_; that we show the servant mind of Christ in those situations, preferring others before ourselves (Philip. 2:3-5).
  - F. \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 16b)
    - “Mind not high things” = don’t think \_\_\_\_\_ thoughts (mainly about yourself); don’t allow yourself to be lifted up in pride or think that you are something or superior to others.
    - “Condescend to men of low estate” = associate with \_\_\_\_\_ people and allow yourself to be influenced by them and not the proud.
- CONCLUSION**
- It takes \_\_\_\_\_ to grow a tree and to bring in a bountiful harvest, so let’s not waste any time getting started!
  - Let’s “let our brotherly love continue” and \_\_\_\_\_ more and more and more!