

THE CHURCH OF BROTHERLY LOVE

INTRODUCTION

- What a “Church of _____” looks like:
- I. BROTHERLY LOVE _____ (JOHN 15:12-14, 17).**
 - A. The _____ from the Lord (vs. 12, 17)**
 - To love one another.
 - Two Biblical illustrations of this kind of omnidirectional love:
 - A woven _____ with connections from every member to every member (Col. 2:2).
 - An _____ that everyone shares and breathes (Eph. 4:15).
 - B. The Example of Love (vs. 12-13)**
 - The Lord Jesus, the greatest example of this “greater love.”
 - We are to follow His example in laying down our own _____ for our brothers and sisters in Christ (1 John 3:16).
 - Three practical ways to express this kind of giving, sacrificial love in the body of Christ:
 - **By _____** = the unselfish giving of our material resources to help others in the body (1 John 3:17).
 - **By _____** = the investment of time and attention in the brethren (Gal 5:13).
 - **By _____** = a loving, lowly mindset that esteems others and prefers their interests above our own (Rom 12:10).
 - The key to showing brotherly love is to _____ in the love of Christ (John 15:9-10).
 - II. BROTHERLY LOVE _____ (JOHN 13:34-35).**
 - A. It Attracts the _____ to Christ:**
 - “All men” = not just those in the church but those outside as well (Col. 1:3-4).
 - “If” (vs. 35) = the world won’t see Christ in us unless the _____ is present first.
 - B. It Attracts and Nourishes _____ in Christ:**
 - God will send His babies to a good _____ where they will be nurtured in a loving environment (Acts 2:47).
 - III. BROTHERLY LOVE _____ (1 PET. 4:8-9).**
 - “Above all things” = the primacy and priority of love in the church
 - “Among yourselves” = the arena of love, in the church in obedience to Christ’s command to love one another.
 - “Fervent” = the kind of love.

- “Fervent” = “intense, earnest, stretched” like the taut _____ of the athlete straining for the victory.
- The way we stretch and intensify our brotherly love is by “_____.”
- Prov. 10:12:
 - Stirring = “stir up, arouse, awaken” or aggravate _____ to people and relationships and make them worse.
 - Covering = “clothe, conceal” plus preposition = “covers over, up” like someone putting a _____ over a wound so it can heal.
- Fervent brotherly love seeks to minimize the _____ of others in the body rather than magnify them.