



*"The only people you should try to get even with are those who have helped you." – R.J. Rehwinkels*

**INTRODUCTION:** Brotherly kindness adds a dimension to our spiritual life that is outward. Everything we've looked at so far has been an inward and upward change. This is an outward change. Adding brotherly kindness to your faith, adds attractiveness to the gospel you live to portray.

### I. THE DEFINITION OF BROTHERLY KINDNESS

The phrase **brotherly kindness** is translated from the Greek word **philadelphia**. It is a compound word deriving from the word **phileo**, a word for love, and **adelphos** meaning brother. So we could define brotherly kindness as the love of brothers.

*I Samuel 18:1 & 3, "1 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul . . . 3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul."*

*Romans 12:10, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;"*

It's this brotherly kindness that gives us a sense of family as we associate ourselves as members of the body of Christ. It's that brotherly kindness that is the evidence of regeneration that shows that you and I have been born into the family of God.

### II. THE DEMAND FOR BROTHERLY KINDNESS (I JOHN 4:7-8; 20-21)

*John 13:34-35, "34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."*

Right doctrine is important (II John 1:9), but the world pays little attention to what they see as minor doctrinal differences. What they do take notice of is genuine love.

*John 17:20-23, "20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that*

*they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me."*

*Ephesians 4:2, "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;"*

*"Has it ever occurred to you that 100 pianos, all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other. They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So 100 worshippers, meeting together, each one looking away to Christ are in heart, nearer to each other than they could possibly be were they to become unity conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship." – Tozer*

### III. THE DEVELOPMENT OF BROTHERLY KINDNESS (I JOHN 4:9-12)

*I Peter 1:22-23, "22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: 23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."*

*I Thessalonian 4:9-10, "9 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. 10 And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;"*

The very first thing that we learn about God when we are saved is His love towards sinners. The more we reflect on the love and sacrifice of our precious Lord, then the more we are able to comprehend the true meaning of brotherly kindness.

#### A. SPEND TIME WITH YOUR BROTHER OR SISTER IN CHRIST

#### B. PRAY WITH YOUR BROTHER OR SISTER IN CHRIST

### IV. THE DISPLAY OF BROTHERLY KINDNESS

A great illustration of brotherly kindness in the Bible is the life of Joseph. Joseph's brothers, out of jealousy, wanted to kill Joseph, but they settled on selling him into slavery. From that day on, they had to live with the guilt of having murder on their hearts, of lying to their father, of selling their own brother. Joseph had a very hard time when the day came that he met up with them, **but the Lord was with him.**

#### A. JOSEPH FORGAVE (GENESIS 45:3)

God used all the instances of betrayal in Joseph's life in order that He might give the world a visual illustration of the Love of God in sending Jesus Christ to die for us.

#### B. JOSEPH FORGOT

There is no mention in chapter 45 of the abuse towards Joseph. In fact, Joseph introduced them to Pharaoh as his brothers and never mentioned the way they treated him to Pharaoh.

#### C. JOSEPH FOCUSED (GENESIS 45:5, 8)

#### D. JOSEPH FURNISHED (GENESIS 45:20)