

Let Us Add Brotherly Kindness to Our Faith  
(2 Peter 1:5-7)

Introduction:

1. In these verses 7 special characteristics ["the Christian graces"] are listed.
2. According to vs.5a, we are to add these graces to our faith with all diligence.
3. Peter continued in vs.8-11 by explaining why we must develop these graces.
  - a. One positive blessing is explained in vs.8.
  - b. A negative matter is revealed in vs.9.
  - c. Another positive blessing is revealed in vs.10-11.
4. All 7 graces are important, and all are essential for spiritual growth.
5. Today we are concentrating on adding "brotherly kindness" to our faith.

Discussion:

- I. LET US FIRST DEFINE "BROTHERLY KINDNESS"
  - A. Brotherly kindness: brotherly love, love that Christians have as brothers and sisters
  - B. "Brotherly kindness" is an affectionate type of love that Christians are to have for each other.
    1. In addition to being commanded, it is described in Romans 12:10 -- "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love."
    2. This kind of love is based our relationship with God (1 John 5:1).
  - C. (Acts 2:41-47) The Jerusalem church provides a beautiful example of "brotherly kindness."
- II. WE ARE TAUGHT MANY TIMES IN THE SCRIPTURES TO DEVELOP "BROTHERLY KINDNESS"
  - A. (1 Thessalonians 4:9-10) God teaches His children to love one another, and we are to "increase more and more" in "brotherly love."
  - B. (Hebrews 13:1) We are to "let brotherly love continue."
  - C. (1 Peter 1:22-23) Those who have been born again are to "love one another with a pure heart fervently."
- III. THE SCRIPTURES CONTAIN NUMEROUS INSTRUCTIONS (POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE) THAT RELATE TO "BROTHERLY KINDNESS"
  - A. See:
    1. Matthew 20:20-21, 24-28
    2. Ephesians 4:1-3, 26-27, 29, 31-32
    3. Colossians 3:8, 12-13
    4. James 3:13-18
    5. 1 Peter 3:8-9
  - B. "Brotherly kindness" will not be found when evil things exist, including the desire for preeminence, envy, anger, evil speaking, holding grudges, strife, and vengeance.
  - C. "Brotherly kindness" will be found when good things exist, including gentleness, courtesy, compassion, mercy, meekness, patience, forbearance, humility, and forgiveness.

Conclusion:

1. Let us add brotherly kindness to our faith.
2. Let us give all diligence in doing so.