

# Christian Characteristics

## Brotherly Kindness

### Introduction

1. **Brotherly kindness is closely associated with brotherly love.**
2. **It may be translated "love of the brethren".**  
(*"warmheartedness, goodness, generosity, helpfulness"*)
3. **When thinking of brotherly kindness or brotherly love we might consider "love" the cause and "kindness" the effect.**
4. **Let's look at a few statements concerning brotherly love.**

◆ *NOTE: These verses are an example of command, example, and inference.*

### **John 13:34-35**

1 Pet 1:22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in **sincere love** of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

I Jn 4:21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

- B. Therefore, brotherly love will naturally be there when we sincerely love God with all of our heart.**

## **Brotherly Kindness Is a Command**

### **1. In the Old Testament.**

Zech 7:8-10 Then the word of the LORD came to Zechariah, saying, "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Execute true justice, show mercy and compassion everyone to his brother. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart against his brother.'

Deut 22:1 "You shall not see your brother's ox or his sheep going astray, and hide yourself from them; you shall certainly bring them back to your brother.

### **2. By the apostle Peter.**

1PE 2:17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

### **3. By the apostle Paul.**

Eph 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

## **Ways Brotherly Kindness Can Be Shown**

### **1. Through our conversation.**

#### **Alexander Maclaren**

*“Kindness makes a person attractive. If you would win the world, melt it, do not hammer it.”*

#### **A. We should always strive to speak kindly to each other.**

##### **1) The law of kindness is in our tongue.**

Prov 31:26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness.

Prov 15:4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life.....

##### **2) A soft, kind answer turns away wrath.**

Prov 15:1 A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Col 4:6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

## 2. **Through Sympathy toward one another.**

**A. We are told that we must rejoice and suffer with each other.**  
(Concept that each member is a part of the whole body).

1) **However, One of life's major mistakes is being the last member in the family to come down with the flu -- after all the sympathy has run out.**

1 Cor 12:25 that there should be no **schism** ("a split in the organization because of difference of opinion; the offense of trying to cause a split in the church") in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

**B. Onesiphorus is an example of one who was kind to another.**

2 Tim 1:16-18 The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain; but when he arrived in Rome, he sought me out very zealously and found me. The Lord grant to him that he may find mercy from the Lord in that Day-- and you know very well how many ways he ministered to me at Ephesus.

**C. Christ demonstrated this compassionate characteristic.**

### ***The feeding of the 5,000***

Matt 14:14 And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

### 3. **By practicing the "Golden Rule".**

- A. The standard of dealing with one another was given long ago by Jesus himself.**

Matt 7:12 "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

- B. This is not a negative, but rather a positive rule. We must DO something!**
- C. It does not mean to just be as kind to others as they are to you. It means treating others like you want to be treated.**
- D. To get the full understanding of the meaning of this verse - change places with the other fellow.**

### 4. **By doing Good for evil.**

- A. Anyone can return good for good (Matt 5:46-48).**
- B. We are to return good for evil.  
1 Peter 3:8-12**
- C. Evil can't overcome evil, no more than fire can put out fire. Put out the fire with water. Put out the evil with good!**

#### **William E. Brown**

The story is told of a farmer in a Midwestern state who had a strong disdain for "religious" things. As he plowed his field on Sunday morning, he would shake his fist at the church people who passed by on their way to worship. October came and the farmer had his finest crop ever--the best in the entire county. When the harvest was complete, he placed an advertisement in the local paper which belittled the Christians for their faith in God. Near the end of his ad he wrote, "Faith in God must not mean much if someone like me can prosper." The response from the Christians in the community was quiet and polite. In the next edition of the town paper, a small ad appeared. It read simply, "**God doesn't always settle His accounts in October.**"

#### **Romans 12:17-21**

- 1) Two wrongs have never made a right!**

