

## **Discipleship - Session 11**

### **Continue the 8 Characteristics Of A True Disciple Number 7 - Brotherly Kindness**

Things we will cover this lesson:

1. Understanding of the word *philadelphia*.
2. Understanding the Christian community in the New Testament.
3. Why we are called “brothers” and “sisters”.
4. Christians are to long for each others presence.
5. How we can demonstrate to the world that we truly are Jesus’ disciples.

Assignment:

1. Continue ALONE prayer log. (One day -- 1/2 hour.)
2. Communing Word log.
3. Also go over the material you learned this session. Look up all the scriptures. Put this lesson to practice in your daily life.

Read again the 8 characteristics from 2 Peter 1

2 Peter 1:5-7

<sup>5</sup>But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your **faith virtue**, to virtue **knowledge**,

<sup>6</sup>to knowledge **self-control**, to self-control **perseverance**, to perseverance **godliness**,

<sup>7</sup>to godliness **brotherly kindness**, and to brotherly kindness **love**.

Characteristic Number 7 is **Brotherly Kindness**.

### **Brotherly Kindness** - Definition:

- The Greek word is “philadelphia”. It comes from two words: “philos” and “adelphos”.
  - “Philos” means friend, to be friendly, a companion. From this word we get the Greek word “phileo” which is translated by the word “love”. “Phileo” is the type of love we are most accustomed to. It is a love that desires love to be returned. It is the kind of love we all know through healthy family relationships.
  - “Adelphos” means a brother, a fellow associate united to another by some bond. This bond can be blood but not necessarily so. It can be any type of bond; i.e., class, social, clubs, organizations, ethnic, etc.
- Thus this is a fellow associate (i.e., a brother) who is a good friend.

Consider these verses with the word “philos”:

John 15:13

<sup>13</sup> "Greater love (*agape*) has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his **friends**. (NKJV)

James 2:23

<sup>23</sup> And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the **friend** of God. (NKJV)

Note also this verse from the Old Testament:

Proverbs 18:24

<sup>24</sup> A man *who has* friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend *who* sticks closer than a brother. (NKJV)

Consider the following passages of scripture which use the word *philadelphia* meaning “brotherly kindness”:

Romans 12:10 <sup>10</sup> *Be kindly affectionate to one another with **brotherly love***, in honor giving preference to one another; (NKJV)

1 Thessalonians 4:9

<sup>9</sup>But concerning **brotherly love** you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love (*agape*) one another; (NKJV)

Hebrews 13:1

<sup>1</sup>Let **brotherly love** continue. (NKJV)

1 Peter 1:22 <sup>22</sup> Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere **love of the brethren**, love (*agape*) one another fervently with a pure heart, (NKJV)

1 Peter 3:8

<sup>8</sup> Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; **love as brothers**, be tenderhearted, be courteous; (NKJV)

### **Important note:**

“Phileo” is how we love those dear to us (i.e., spouse, children, close relatives). Now the Lord adds to the word for us as Christians! We are to learn to love our brethren with the same type of love. We must move from “phileo” to “philadelphia”. This is a step up. This is leading us toward “agape”.

*In other words we must learn to love the brethren at least like we love very close relatives.* (It is obvious that the church we read about in the book of Acts did this. They sold their goods in order to help one another.)

Acts 2:44-47 <sup>44</sup> Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, <sup>45</sup> and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. <sup>46</sup> So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. (NKJV)

Acts 4:32-37 <sup>32</sup> Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. <sup>33</sup> And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, <sup>35</sup> and laid *them* at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need. <sup>36</sup> And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, <sup>37</sup> having land, sold *it*, and brought the money and laid *it* at the apostles' feet. (NKJV)

Consider the terms “brother” and “sister”.

Matthew 12:46-50 <sup>46</sup> While He was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him. <sup>47</sup> Then one said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You." <sup>48</sup> But He answered and said to the one who told Him, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" <sup>49</sup> And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers!" <sup>50</sup> "For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is **My brother and sister and mother.**" (NKJV)

Matthew 25:40 <sup>40</sup> "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these **My brethren**, you did *it* to Me.' (NKJV)

Romans 12:1 <sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, **brethren**, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 15:1 <sup>1</sup> Moreover, **brethren**, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, (NKJV)

Ephesians 6:10 <sup>10</sup> Finally, **my brethren**, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. (NKJV)

James 1:2 <sup>2</sup> **My brethren**, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, (NKJV)

1 John 3:13 <sup>13</sup> Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. (NKJV)

Romans 16:1 <sup>1</sup> I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, (NKJV)

1 Timothy 5:1-2 <sup>1</sup> Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort *him* as a father, younger men as brothers, <sup>2</sup> older women as mothers, younger as sisters, with all purity. (NKJV)

Consider how Paul longs to be with his Christian family in these verses:

Philippians 1:8 <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. (NKJV)

Philippians 4:1 <sup>1</sup> Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved. (NKJV)

1 Thessalonians 2:8 <sup>8</sup> So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. (NKJV)

1 Thessalonians 2:17 <sup>17</sup> But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire. (NKJV)

Romans 1:11 <sup>11</sup> For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established -- (NKJV)

We must remember what Jesus said in John 13:

John 13:34-35 <sup>34</sup> "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> "**By this all will know that you are My disciples**, if you have love for one another." (NKJV)

It should be obvious that the Word of God teaches a much greater depth of "family" understanding in the church than is commonly practiced. If we intend to become true disciples of Jesus, we are going to have to understand that His family is very important to Him and it must be to us also. It is our family too. It is time for us to act like it.

The church is our real family. It is eternal. Our biological family may or may not be a part of our eternal family. We must learn to see our church family as our Father sees it!

**SUMMATION STATEMENT: The church must come to the realization we are truly eternal brothers and sisters in the Lord. We must have a love for one another in the church that is at least a "phileo" love. There should be a "family" feel to our church family; a longing to see and be with one another. Our Father wants His family to have special attraction for one another as any good family should have.**