

GROWING
IN
Grace

BUT GROW IN THE GRACE AND
KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD AND
SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.

— 2 PETER 3:18

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LESSON 10 – BROTHERLY
KINDNESS

“[add] to godliness brotherly kindness”

(2 Peter 1:7)

BROTHERLY KINDNESS (PHILADELPHIA) DEFINED

- “made up of phileo, ‘to have an affection for,’ and adelphos, ‘a brother.’” (WUEST)
- “fraternal affection” (STRONG)
- “love of brother/sister” (BDAG)
- “(1) love of brothers or sisters, brotherly love; (2) in the NT the love which Christians cherish for each other as brethren” (THAYER)

THE NATURE OF BROTHERLY KINDNESS (PHILADELPHIA)

- Brotherly kindness of a spiritual sort springs from a common spiritual birth – **1 Peter 1:22**
- The command to “love” (*agapaō*) the brethren is predicated on the “love of the brethren” (*philadelphia*) into which they were born – **1 Peter 1:3, 23**
- Their birth put them into a relationship with others which yielded affection – **1 Peter 1:3-5, 13-16, 22; 2:4-5, 10; 5:9**

THE NATURE OF BROTHERLY KINDNESS (PHILADELPHIA)

- Their obedience of faith placed them into “*love of the brethren*” (*philadelphia*) – “*your obedience to the truth unto (eis) unfeigned love of the brethren.*” (ASV)
- “The common spiritual birth brought people who would have likely otherwise been distant into a warm affection for each other.”
 - Examples: **Philemon 11, 16; Hebrews 13:1-2**

THE IMPORTANCE OF BROTHERLY KINDNESS (PHILADELPHIA)

1. It is commanded by God.

- 6 of 8 occurrences of *philadelphia* are in command form.
- It must be worked on – 1 Peter 2:1-5; Galatians 2:11-13; 5:13-15, 25-26; Philippians 4:2-3

2. It is vital to the unity and functionality of the body of Christ.

- Diversity exists in the body – Galatians 3:26-29; Acts 10:28; Ephesians 2:11, 14-18
- Unity and affection are vital – Romans 12:3-8, 10, 15-16

NURTURING BROTHERLY KINDNESS (PHILADELPHIA)

- God wants us to increase in our affection for each other – **1 Thessalonians 4:9-10**
- To increase in brotherly kindness, we must:
 - Value the spiritual over the physical – **Titus 3:15; 2 Peter 1:1; Matthew 6:33**
 - Associate with the brethren – **Acts 2:42-47; 9:28; Hebrews 10:24-25**
 - Pray for the brethren – **Ephesians 6:18; 1:6; Philemon 4; 1 Thessalonians 1:2; Colossians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:17**