

Living a Fruitful Life **The fruit of brotherly love**

Intro: In 1682 a Quaker preacher by the name of William Penn made his way up the Delaware River to establish a colony on territory given him by the King of England. This territory was named after Penn and the Latin word for “wooded land” (sylvania)—Pennsylvania. It would later become our state with the same name.

The Quakers had been persecuted for their religious beliefs in various parts of Europe; and Penn wanted to establish a place where men could live in harmony and in toleration of one another's views. Pennsylvania was to be that place. Penn likewise wanted its principle city to symbolize those ideals; hence, he borrowed the name of a town from the ancient Greeks to name his city. The town still bears that name, Philadelphia, and means “brotherly love.” It is still called “the city of brotherly love.”

Perhaps you already knew that that same Greek word appears often in the NT. It also is found in Peter’s list of Christian graces.

Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; and in your godliness, brotherly kindness.... (2 Pet. 1:5-7)

“Brotherly kindness” translates the Greek word “philadelphia.” Indeed, the church could truly be called a city of brotherly love, a spiritual “Philadelphia” (Rom. 12:10; Heb. 13:1). And if we want to live a truly fruitful life, we must seek to abound in our love for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Why we need to show brotherly kindness?

Because it is the reasonable extension of God’s love for us

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 Jn. 4:10-11)

Because it proves our love for God Himself

If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also. (1 Jn. 4:20-21)

Because it shows the world that we are Jesus’ disciples

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (Jn. 13:34-35)

Because it is purpose of our salvation

*Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, (1 Pet. 1:22)
We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. (1 Jn. 3:14)*

How do we show brotherly love?

By praying for both their physical and spiritual needs

For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. (Col. 1:9-12).

By sharing their sorrows & joys

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. (Rom. 12:15)

By helping others with financial needs

We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? (1 Jn. 3:16-17)

By practicing hospitality

Be hospitable to one another without complaint. (1 Pet. 4:9)

We should remember that hospitality means "love for strangers."

By seeking to encourage them to be faithful and fruitful

and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near. (Heb. 10:24-25)

By seeking to restore the erring

Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent. (Rev. 3:19)

Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted. (Gal. 6:1)

No one can meet every need of every person. Do what you can. But be careful not lay claim to what others are doing.

Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. For each one shall bear his own load. (Gal. 6:2-5)

Conclusion: Churches cannot be urged too much to love one another. To a church that was doing well Paul said, "And the Lord make you to increase and

abound in love one toward another..." (1 Thes. 3:12). Let us work to love our brethren more and more.

God's own love made our salvation possible. Come and obey Him today.