

Brotherly Love

(I Peter 2:17)

Introduction:

When people pull together to achieve a common goal they develop a friendship that strengthens their relationship. Athletes, business partners, hurricane relief teams, and so forth are examples of groups of people coming together for a common cause and being united in achieving set goals. Christians are no different. When Christians look to their goal of heaven they find solace in each other through a common love for truth, struggle against sin, and sinful men. Even the strongest of Christians need comfort from other brothers and sisters in Christ at times. This lesson shall examine the brotherly love that we are to have for each other that our goal of heaven may be obtained.

- I. Christians are bound by love due to a common goal of making it to heaven:**
 - A. Those who remain faithful till death shall be like Jesus into eternity (Rom. 8:17; Phil. 3:20-21; Col. 3:3-4; I Jn. 3:2).
 - B. Those who remain faithful till death shall be resurrected to a state of heavenly immortality (I Cor. 15:50-55).
 - C. Heaven will be wonderful (Rev. 21-22).
- II. Christians are bound to each other in love due to a common love of the truth:**
 - A. Truth saves (Rom. 1:16; Eph. 3:6 / 1:13)
 - B. Truth unites brethren (Jn. 17:14-23).
 - C. Truth unites brethren together universally and locally (Eph. 2:18-23).
- III. Christians are bound by love to each other due to a common struggle against sin:**
 - A. We all sin (I Jn. 1:8-10).
 - B. We all given in to temptation at times (James 1:13-15).
 - C. We all abhor sin (Rom. 12:9; 7:9ff).
 - D. We are all made to feel worthless due to our sin (I Cor. 15:9; Eph. 3:8; I Tim. 1:15).
 - E. These things being so, we “*bear one another’s burdens*” (Gal. 6:1-2).
- IV. Christians are bound to each other in love due to a common struggle against sinful men.**
 - A. The author of Hebrews said, “*Let love of the brethren continue*” in light of the intense persecution the Hebrew Christians were experiencing (cf. Heb. 13:1; 10:32-36).
 - B. Jesus admonishes brotherly love in light of the coming struggles against sinful men (Jn. 15:17-27).

Conclusion:

The common struggle of the Christian to make it to heaven involves a common love for truth and a struggle against sin and sinners. Said goals in life involve struggles against things of the world and thereby there is no time nor reason for struggles against each other (cf. Gal. 5:15; I Pet. 3:8).