

For If Ye Do These Things Ye Shall Never Fall

(Part 9)

I. Introduction:

A. We have discussed using the all-sufficient Scriptures to diligently build upon our faith virtue, mature knowledge, temperance [self-control], patience [endurance] and godliness (**II Peter 1:3-6**), but we haven't yet talked about our relationship with our brethren.

1. Faithful Christians are part of a spiritual family (**Ephesians 3:10-15**).
2. "Brethren" [brothers, sisters, etc.] can be a generalized term (i.e. **Romans 9:1-3** vs. **Colossians 1:2**), so we have to be careful when we discuss who are brethren are and in what sense we are talking about such.

B. Before we even discuss how we relate to our brethren, we have to define who are brethren are. Jesus defines who our brethren are... **Mark 3:31-35**

1. There is a spiritual birth required (**John 3:1-6** and **Galatians 3:26-29**).
2. However, that birth does not secure that relationship (**I John 2:29-3:10**).

II. Body: And to godliness brotherly kindness (**II Peter 1:7**).

A. The Greek term [φιλαδελφία; pronounced philadelphia] translated as "brotherly kindness" in **II Peter 1:7** means: "fraternal affection: — brotherly love (kindness), love of the brethren. Love of brothers or sisters, brotherly love. In the NT the love which Christians cherish for each other as brethren". That term is used in the following NT Scriptures in addition to **II Peter 1:7**:

1. **Romans 12:10** "brotherly love"
2. **I Thessalonians 4:9** "brotherly love"
3. **Hebrews 13:1** "brotherly love"
4. **I Peter 1:22** "love of the brethren"

B. Brotherly love is all about action, not just words (**I John 3:11-18**).

1. Jesus made love of brethren about actions (**John 15:12-14**).
2. Words may profit at times (**I Thessalonians 4:18**), but more frequently we have to do something rather than say something (**James 2:14-17**).
3. We can show love toward each other, as saints, through many different actions (**Galatians 6:1-10**, **Ephesians 4:1-3**, **Philippians 2:1-8**, **Colossians 3:12-15**, **Hebrews 10:24-25**, **I Peter 3:8**, etc.).

C. Brotherly love is a distinguishing mark of true saints (**John 13:34-35**).

1. If you can't love your brethren it is not possible to love God (**I John 4:12; 20:5:1**).
2. Our relationship with each other is lesson to the world (**John 17:20-21**).
3. What message are we showing others if we do not have proper relationships with each other (**Galatians 2:11-17**)?

4. We cannot even properly worship God if we are at odds with each other (**Matthew 5:23-24**).

D. We can grow in our love toward one another (**II Thessalonians 1:3**).

1. Think about how the work of the congregation was likened unto the working together of the human body to understand how we have to relate to each other as the body of Christ - depend on each other - work unified - etc. (**I Corinthians 12:14-27**).

2. Grow to the point of being dependable, dear, and unwavering in your commitment not only to the Lord, but your brethren (ex. **Philippians 2:24-30**).

III. Conclusion: Loving our faithful brethren is a key to our faithfulness (**I John 2:8-11**).