

For If Ye Do These Things Ye Shall Never Fall

(Part 10)

I. Introduction:

- A. In our last lesson we discussed brotherly kindness [love] (**I Peter 3:8**).
1. We learned that brotherly love was not an emotion or sentiment, but rather proper action towards one another (**Galatians 5:13**).
 2. Such love is required of us whom are saints (**II John 1:5-6**).
- B. Love [charity] isn't just action though, for actions can be done without love being the motivator behind them (**Luke 11:39-42**).
1. Even proper works that seem to be done because of love, can be loveless works (**Revelation 2:1-7**).
 2. The right actions, with the proper motives, need to be tested to be sure we are doing the right things for the right reason (**II Corinthians 8:1-15**; cf. **I Corinthians 16:1-4**).

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

A. There are several different Greek words that are translated "charity" or "love" in the New Testament KJV. The word translated "charity" [ἀγάπη; pronounced agapē] is rather broad and means the following: "(1) brotherly love, affection, good will, love, benevolence; 2) love feasts" (Thayer's Lexicon; Strong's # 26). This terms appears 116 in the Greek N.T. Mostly translated as "love" [86 x's] and "charity" [27 x's]. "Feast of charity" [once]. "Charitably" [once].

1. We cannot grow in "feasts of charity" (**Jude 1:12**).
 - a. After much study, I have to say that I really do not know what "feasts of charity" were.
 - b. I know it was not a time where the local church assembled for social meals, for that would have been an error (**I Corinthians 11:16-34**). Social meals are not a collective function of the saints (**Romans 14:17**).
 - c. Was it another term for the Lord's Supper? I don't know.
 - d. Was it a social gathering at a brother's home (**I Peter 4:9**)? Again, I don't know.
 - e. To guess or assume would be to err (**Romans 14:23** [cf. **Romans 10:17**] and **I Thessalonians 5:21**).
2. We have already discussed "brotherly love" in the previous statement of this context (**II Peter 1:7**). So we know the context is not talking about that as it did in the previous point.
3. By deduction, we are left with learning about growing in affection, good will, and being benevolent [kind] in general (**Luke 6:27-36**, **Galatians 6:10**, **I Thessalonians 3:12**, **I Peter 3:10-11**, and **III John 1:1-7**).
4. Obedience is required for us to be in the love of God (**John 15:9-10**).
5. Love, though a slightly different Greek word in the following reference (ἀγαπάω; Strong's #25), comes from within (**Matthew 22:35-40**).

B. Let's consider how great charity [love] is and how charity is the proper motivator for our good works (**I Corinthians 12:28-13:13** and **Colossians 3:10-14**).

1. Doing good for God requires affectionate love, love of doing good for God (**I John 5:1-3**).
2. Doing good for brethren requires love of doing good will for our brethren (**I Samuel 18:1-4; 20:30-42**).
3. Doing good for our neighbors [cf. **Luke 10:25-37**] requires the love of doing good will for them (**Romans 13:8-10**).
4. As disciples of Christ, we are to be rooted and grounded in this type of love (**Ephesians 3:17-19**).
5. Consider how a "love of the truth" (**II Thessalonians 2:10-12**) applies to our doing of what is right, good, of good will with proper motives (**Psalms 119:97-105**).

C. Love has to be without hypocrisy (**Psalms 97:10** and **Romans 12:9**).

1. Consider the contrast of love for the world and love for our Heavenly Father (**I John 2:15-17**).
2. Iniquity causes love to grow cold (**Matthew 24:12**).
 - a. You're then spiritually crippled, because love is the engine that moves your faith (**Galatians 5:6**).
 - b. That's the time to get help (**James 5:16; 19-20**).
 - c. Brethren can provoke you to love and good works (**Hebrews 10:24**).
3. Real love has to come from a pure heart (**I Timothy 1:5** and **II Timothy 2:22**).
4. Thus, if your love is being muted by sin and hypocrisy is your being, repent so that you're relationship with God can be restored (**James 4:6-10**).

III. Conclusion: *"(13) Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. (14) Let all your things be done with charity"* (**I Corinthians 16:13-14**).