

INTRODUCTION

It was a delight to me last week to address the congregation on the subject of honoring the older members, as unto God, the Ancient of Days.

Today we consider the other aspect of that same doctrine mentioned in 1 Timothy 5:1-2, treating each other as brothers and sisters.

There's a lot that we experience or observe in sibling relationships that we know is not meant here. So, what is meant?

I have actual scars on my body from injuries done to me by my own siblings.

We don't do well just to assume our own ideas, to interpret and apply the Bible just according to what we think. We do well when we look to the Bible to interpret itself.

TEXT

1 Timothy 5:1-2 Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, (2) older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity.

BODY

- I. We Can Learn About How to Treat Brothers and Sisters By Observing the Actions of Abraham Toward Lot
- A. Genesis 11:27-28 This is the genealogy of Terah: Terah begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran begot Lot. (28) And Haran died before his father Terah in his native land, in Ur of the Chaldeans.
1. Abram had a brother named Haran, who had a son named Lot.
 2. Abram's brother, Haran, died young, leaving his son, Lot, without a father
- B. Genesis 12:5 Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan.
1. Abram took his brother's son with him
- C. Genesis 13:8-9 So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. (9) Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left."
1. ESV: kinsmen; literally "brothers" or "brethren"
 2. even though Abram was more senior than Lot, He gave his "brother" the first choice, so there would be no strife between them.
- D. Genesis 14:8-16
1. in verse 16 see Lot again referred to as Abram's "brother"
 2. his brother was in big trouble, which trouble was partly from his not acting as wisely as Abram had
 3. when his "brother" was in trouble, he helped him, though it was a great effort and risk to him.
- E. So, what was Abram's way of treating his brother?
1. when his brother died, he took his brother's son to be a brother
 2. when he moved to another country, he took his brother with him
 3. when there was some conflict between them, he deferred to his brother, that there be no strife between them, because they were brothers
 4. when his brother was in trouble, Abram went as far as going to battle to save him

II. We Can Learn About How to Treat Brothers and Sisters By Hearing the Wisdom in the Psalms and Proverbs

- A. Psalm 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!
 - 1. we know all too well that brethren being in unity often is not the case
 - a) Cain murdered his brother
 - b) Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery
 - 2. but when brothers can be in unity, it is a thing exceedingly good and pleasant
- B. Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.
 - 1. so much is it the wise thing for a brother to help his brother in adversity, that it can be said that he is born for that
 - 2. not speaking here of a person's ultimate purpose: a man ultimately is born to glorify God and enjoy Him forever
 - 3. not speaking here of a person's purpose as created:
 - a) the man is created to take dominion over the earth, to work and produce
 - b) the woman is created to help her husband and bear children
- C. Proverbs 18:24 A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend [H157 *ahab* literally "love"] who sticks closer than a brother.
 - 1. We are after the second line in this proverb.
 - 2. There is a kind of friend who sticks close to you.
 - a) How close? closer even than a brother
 - 3. So, it is well known that a brother sticks close to his own brother.
- D. So, what do these excerpts from the psalms and proverbs say about how to treat a brother?
 - 1. you live in peaceful unity with your brother
 - 2. you help your brother when he has adversity
 - 3. you stick to your brother

Observations On How Rightly to Treat Your Brother Or Sister

- Abram did not leave his brother / a brother sticks to his brother
- Abram kept the peace with his brother / how good and pleasant for brethren to dwell together in unity
- Abram rescued his brother / a brother is born for adversity

III. The Doctrine of Brotherly Love

A. There is a word in the New Testament, in the original Greek: *philadelphia*

1. a compound word
 - a) *philos* - one of the words for love
 - b) *adelphos* - brother (or sister)
2. the name William Penn chose for the capital of his colony, the city we know as Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
3. so, this word means literally “brotherly love” or “love for brothers or sisters”

B. Romans 12

1. Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
 - a) see the apostle appealing to Christians as his brethren
 - b) So, this is part of offering your body a sacrifice to God
2. Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
 - a) this is part of being transformed by the renewing of your mind rather than being conformed to this world.
 - b) this is part of the will of God.
3. Romans 12:4-5 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, (5) so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.
 - a) to conceive of others in the congregation as brothers and sisters is to recognize our relationship is really even closer than that---the relationship of the members of the body
4. Romans 12:9 *Let love G26 agape* be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.
 - a) to treat one another as brothers and sisters is a matter of love; and love that is sincere, not fake
5. Romans 12:10a *Be kindly affectionate [G5387] to one another with **brotherly love [G5360 philadelphia]**,*
 - a) *philadelphia*, brotherly love, is to be couple with another aspect of love
 - b) here we have another compound word for love - G5387 *philostorgos* the affection or love between a parent and a child
 - c) so, the apostle doubles the reference to the love that members of a family have for one another
 - d) e.g. With the strongest affection known to the closest of family members, love each other as brothers and sisters.
6. Romans 5:10b ...in honor giving preference to one another;
 - a) note that the exhortation couple with that double appeal to family love is to honor each other by giving preference to each other
 - b) think how well that agrees with Abram’s action toward Lot, when he, the one more deserving of honor, honored Lot, giving him the preference over himself

- IV. Biblical Observations On How to Treat Others in the Congregation As Brothers and Sisters
 - A. Love for each other
 - 1. with the love God has taught you
 - 2. with the kind of affection we have for our closest family
 - 3. with sincerity, not pretending
 - B. Commitment to stick to each other; to cling to one another
 - C. Faithfulness in times of adversity, trouble, tribulation, do what the other needs to be rescued from his trouble
 - D. Peacefulness or unity maintained by the humility to honor others in the congregation above yourself

- V. APPLICATION TO THE CHURCH
 - A. Most direct: church pastors
 - 1. over the church by office
 - 2. charged with all aspects of teaching the word
 - 3. tempted to lord it over the church
 - 4. resisting that temptation by conceiving of yourself
 - a) not as a master speaking to slaves
 - b) not as a king speaking to subjects
 - c) but as a family member speaking to other members of the family
 - B. More general
 - 1. thinking of each other as brothers and sisters
 - 2. loving each other as brothers and sisters
 - 3. speaking to each other as brothers and sisters

Rita - Prelude

Rita - Trinity 206 "Up from the Grave He Arose"

Allison - Trinity 37 "God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength"

Audrey - Trinity 178 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" - Andrew leading

Jeremiah - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 118:28-29

Stephen - Scripture Reading - Psalm 46

Roel - Congregational Prayer

“brotherly love” G5360 *philadelphia*

RWP:

Late word, love of brothers or sisters. In profane Greek (one papyrus example) and lxx the word means love of those actually kin by blood, but in the N.T. it is the kinship in the love of Christ as here.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

So, this is part of offering your body a sacrifice to God

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

This is part of being transformed by the renewing of your mind rather than being conformed to this world.

This is part of the will of God.

Romans 12:4-5 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, (5) so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

Romans 12:9 *Let love G26 agape be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*

Romans 12:10 *Be kindly affectionate G5384 to one another with [**brotherly love G5360 *philadelphia***], in honor giving preference to one another;*

*G5387 *philostorgos**

RWP: Old compound adjective from *philos* and *storge* (mutual love of parents and children), here alone in N.T.

Clarke: that tender and indescribable affection which a mother bears to her child...Feel the tenderest affection towards each other...Love a brother Christian with the affection of a natural brother.

note the first item mentioned with brotherly love---in honor giving preference to one another---how well it agrees with what we saw in Abram

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 But concerning **brotherly love G5360 [*philadelphia*]** you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love [G25 *agapao*] one another; 10

and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren [G8o *adelphos*], that you increase more and more;

all the Christians are referred to as “brethren,” and love for other Christians is referred to as “brotherly love”

Hebrews 13:1-7 Let brotherly love continue. 2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. 3 Remember the prisoners as if chained with them--those who are mistreated--since you yourselves are in the body also. 4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. 5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU." 6 So we may boldly say: "THE LORD IS MY HELPER; I WILL NOT FEAR. WHAT CAN MAN DO TO ME?" 7 Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

2 Peter 1:5-8 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness **brotherly kindness**, and to **brotherly kindness** love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 14 And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. 15 Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

Leviticus 19:9-18 'When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10 And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the LORD your God. 11 'You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another. 12 And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. 13 'You shall not cheat your neighbor, nor rob him. The wages of him who is hired shall not remain with you all night until morning. 14 You shall not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling block before the blind, but shall fear your God: I am the LORD. 15 'You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor. 16 You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD. 17 'You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. 18 You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

