

The Imperative of Brotherly Kindness

2 Peter 1:6-7*

"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"

Brotherly kindness (philadelphia in the Greek) is a virtue that Peter must have acquired the hard way, for the disciples of our Lord often debated and disagreed with one another. If we love Jesus Christ, we must also love the brethren. We should practice an "unfeigned [sincere] love of the brethren" (1 Peter 1:22) and not just pretend that we love them. "Let brotherly love continue" (Heb. 13:1). "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love" (Rom. 12:10). The fact that we love our brothers and sisters in Christ is one evidence that we have been born of God (1 John 5:1–2).²

- The standard presented in the Old Testament

- The teaching enlarged for us in the New Testament
 - Jesus magnifies the concept of loving the brethren

 - Paul's contribution

 - John's emphasis

 - Peter's addition

*These notes are prayerfully prepared to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's Word.

² Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 438–439.