

**1. I would like to open this evening with "The First" Fruit of the Holy Spirit from Galatians 5:22, which is LOVE!**

- a. We know this to be "Agape" love. It is that very special love that originates with God, and because it originates with God, it can only be given by God!
- b. But even after it is given by God to those whom God saves, it must be nourished, cultivated, and practiced in your life if it is to flourish, mature, and grow in you. 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13, 4:9-10, 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4
  - i. Jesus, in John 13:34-35 said this to His disciples: "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."
- c. Tonight, in Romans 12:10 we will read of "2 loves" that are "not agape," but if the expressions of these "2 loves" is to be genuine, this love must come from the hearts of those who possess "agape love" within them.

**2. Romans 12:10: "Be kindly affectioned (or affectionate) one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another."**

- a. To be kindly affectioned or affectionate comes from two Greek words, "philos" and "storge," combined they communicate the natural love and affection that exists in families, between fathers, mothers, and children.
  - i. Be kindly affectioned or affectionate = "Philostorgos"
- b. What Paul was teaching the Romans, (and us), is that a love should exist within the church, between each of us as brethren LIKE the "natural love and affection" that exists between members of a natural family.
  - i. Benjamin Warfield wrote: "It is NOT natural for people to love God or the things and people of God, but it is natural for them to love their own families. In the church (or in family of God) there should be a spiritual family love, that looks like the love in a natural family!"
- c. Bottom line, if you're a child of God, you should assimilate very easily into the church, because each of us are members of the family of God!
- d. After all, you have been adopted into the family of God, and (in Christ) you are ALL children of One and the same Heavenly Father.
  - i. Matthew 6:9: "Our Father which art in heaven,"
- e. It stands to reason that there should be a "natural" spiritual family love and affection between us as children of God. Our heavenly Father loves us as His children, each of us as His children, should love our heavenly Father, and we should also love each other as children, and members of the family of God! Galatians 3:26-28, Ephesians 1:3-6, 1 John 3:1-2.

**3. "Be kindly affectioned one to another WITH BROTHERLY LOVE."**

- a. Brotherly love is the Greek word, "PHILADELPHIA!" You've probably heard of the city Philadelphia, in Pennsylvania called the city of brotherly love. So as a church, or as the city of God, there should be a "visible and fond loving family affection" that exists between all of us.
- b. Aristotle: Love is composed of a single soul inhabiting two bodies! Do you remember David and Jonathan? Jonathan loved David "as his own soul!"
  - i. Hebrews 13:1, 1 Peter 1:22, 2 Peter 1:3-7

**4. Finally, in Romans 12:10: "In honor, preferring (or giving preference) to one another."**

- a. People in the world are always competing against each other, to be better than each other,
- b. There's a whole lot of "one upsmanship" in the world, which is when one person is motivated by pride to "outdo" another person just to show them that they are better! But in the church, dear Christian, and in the family of God we are not to behave in such ways.
- c. But if you would "outdo" your brother or sister in Christ, let it be that you "take the lead or outdo" them by giving them preference over you! Be the first to show kindness and affection to others. Honor your brethren and outdo them in this way! Not in a proud way, in let your motivation be the love of Christ!
  - i. 2 Corinthians 12:20, Galatians 5:16-26. How many families are there out there that are fractured and dysfunctional because of all of these sins. But it should not and must not be so among us, dear brethren, in the church and family of God.
- d. If you would be "BETTER" than your brother or sister in Christ, let it be that you are "striving" to take the lead in putting them ahead of yourself, that is really the sense of what Paul wrote.
  - i. Philippians 2:3-4, 1 Corinthians 10:31-33, 13:4-5, Hebrews 10:24
  - ii. Romans 12:10: "Be kindly affectioned or affectionate one to another with brotherly love; in honor, preferring one another."