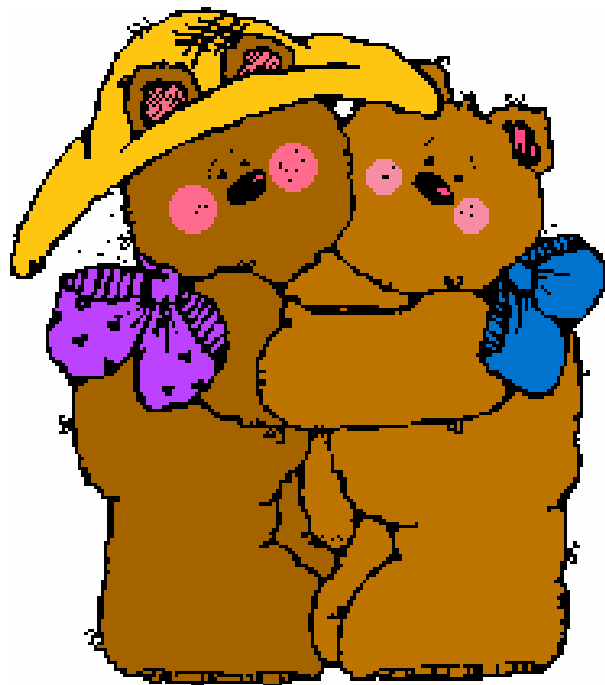




Let Sisterly Love Continue



Ladies' Day



Let brotherly love continue.
Hebrews 13:1



By this all will know that you are My disciples,
if you have love for one another.
John 13:35

Let Sisterly Love Continue

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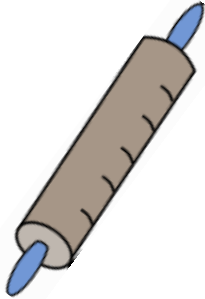


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Recipe for Friendship



Fold two hands together
And express a dash of sorrow
Marinate it overnight
And work on it tomorrow

Chop one grudge in tiny pieces
Add several cups of love
Dredge with a large sized smile
Mix with the ingredients above



Dissolve the hate within you
By doing a good deed
Cut in and help your friend
If she should be in need

Stir in laughter, love, and kindness
From the heart it has to come
Toss in genuine forgiveness
And give your neighbor some

The amount of people served
Will depend on you
It can service the whole wide world
If you really want it to



Graphics courtesy www.countryclipart.com
Author unknown



A Bible Look At Sisterly Love

Hebrews 13:1



Introduction

Some have called the Bible a "love letter" from God to man, and indeed it is such. All in the Bible centers around love because God is love. 1 John 4:8. The word "love" occurs 310 times in the KJV, 338 in the ASV, and 361 in the NKJV. Peter, John, and Paul all instructed the saints to have love one for another. Love is so important that Jesus tells the church at Ephesus in Revelation 2:4-5 :

⁴Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

Love then is a subject of which we would do well to study carefully.

During this series of lessons, we will be studying the subject of "brotherly (or for us, sisterly) love". We will begin our study by discussing what sisterly love is, what kinds of sisterly love we are to have, and reasons to have sisterly love. Next, we will study how we can obtain sisterly love and ways we can demonstrate our love toward one another.



What is Love?

Love is a complex thing. Look at any English dictionary, and you will find a variety of definitions ranging from tender feelings of affection to intense emotional attachments to sexual desires. The Greek language, the language in which the New Testament was written, is much more precise than is the English language. It has four different base words for our single word "love" and from those base words are derived other words for variations of those types of love. The four Greek base words for "love" are:

- **Eros:** Eros is the physical, carnal, passionate, lustful, fleshly love. Eros is based on desire and is self-centered. Eros is the word from which the English word "erotic" comes. In classical Greek, it refers not just to the sexual love between husband and wife, but also includes embraces, yearning, and caring. Eros is not used directly in the Bible, but the closely related word *epithumia* (lusting after the forbidden) is found in 1 John 2:16.
- **Stergo :** Stergo is the natural affection we have for family and kin. Stergo is also not directly used in the Bible. It is used in the negated form *astorgos* (translated unloving) in 2 Timothy 3:3.
- **Phileo :** Phileo is the kind of affectionate love that friends have toward one another. It implies a deep rooted, tender affection, also known as "brotherly love". Phileo is the word from which "Philadelphia" comes. Wives are commanded to phileo their husbands and children. Titus 2:4. Jesus had phileo love for John. John 20:2.



- **Agape:** Agape love is the highest form of love. It is an unconditional, benevolent, and self-sacrificing love in which one puts the well being of another above himself. God has agape love for His creation. Agape love is demonstrated in John 3:16 and again in Romans 5:8.

Agape and phileo love work together and feed off each other, and indeed Paul acknowledges such in 1 Thessalonians 4:9

But concerning brotherly love (phileo) you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love (agape) one another

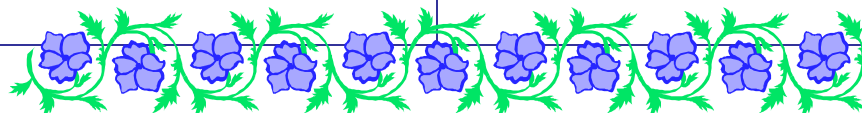
Paul states that he doesn't have to tell the Christians at Thessalonica about phileo love because God has already taught them about agape love. Why do you think this is?

Given this, will the mature Christian have both agape and phileo love for God? _____

As Paul has said, God has taught us to have agape love. He did so through His word. Answer the following questions about agape love using the scriptures provided.

1. He who does not love does not _____. 1 John 4:8
2. _____ is love. 1 John 4:16
3. Why should we love one another? _____ 1 John 4:7
4. The _____ of the _____ is love. Galatians 5:22-23
5. Love is _____ to God's _____. 2 John 1:6
6. Love does _____. Romans 13:10
7. What are the positive and negative ways in which love is described? 1 Corinthians 13:4-6

<u>Love Is</u>	<u>Love is Not</u>





8. When will love fail? 1 Corinthians 13:8 _____

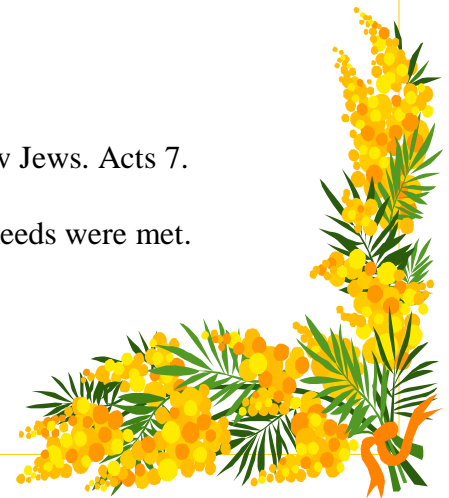
9. Why is love greater than faith and hope? 1 Corinthians 13:13. _____

10. How would you sum up love? _____



The Bible is rich with examples from which we can learn all we need to know to be acceptable to God. 2 Timothy 3:16-17. The subject of love is no exception to this truism. Consider the following examples, noting whether the example demonstrates love or not and why.

- Cain. Genesis 4, 1 John 3:12
- Abraham gave Lot his choice of lands. Genesis 13.
- The churches in Macedonia gave even when in deep poverty. 2 Corinthians 8:1-6.
- The two harlots and the baby. 1 Kings 3:16-27
- Ruth's actions toward Naomi. The book of Ruth
- Stephen gave his life to preach ONE gospel sermon to his fellow Jews. Acts 7.
- The early church held all things common to ensure everyone's needs were met. Acts 2:44-47.
- Miriam and Aaron speaking against Moses for marrying an Ethiopian woman. Numbers 12





10 Good Reasons To Have Sisterly Love

There are literally hundreds of good reasons to have sisterly love. Here we will consider ten of those reasons.

1. **Because God loved us.** We should love one another because God loves us. 1 John 4:11. On the surface this might not make a lot of sense, but consider that every person that God loves is of the same value to God and is thus worthy of the same love from us. Who does God love? Hint: John 3:16.

2. **Because we are purified.** We are to love each other because we are purified. 1 Peter 1:22. Paul has this to say in Titus 2:14
who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.

We are to be a people zealous for good works. Love is a good work, and it is that which motivates other good works. Those who are purified must therefore be zealous for love.

3. **Because we are family and will spend eternity together.** We are Jesus' sisters and He is our brother. Hebrews 2:5-12. We are all God's family, and one day, all the faithful of that family will be together in Heaven. Won't that be a glorious day? Sometimes, though, we act as if we are young siblings, quarrelling and bickering. We moms all know that drill! Read Numbers 12 to see how God feels about this kind of childish behavior. Sometimes we act as though we think we will magically get along in Heaven when we cannot even get along on earth!

We are also commanded to give preference to one another. Romans 12:10. Are we sometimes guilty of preferring to socialize and spend time with our non-Christian friends rather than spending time with our own brethren? _____

4. **Because the church needs our love.** The church today seems to be self-destructing. Some have left their first love and have followed after denominations. Others have become highly suspicious and assume there is a "liberal under every rock". The key ingredient that seems to be missing from both sides is love. We can take heart, however, that there is nothing new under the sun. The following are but a few of the issues facing the church today where proper love would correct the problem. Briefly discuss each as it applies to us today.

- **Prejudice:** The book of Romans shows how love is needed when there are prejudices in the church.
- **Fleshly desires:** 1 and 2 Corinthians shows how brotherly love conquers carnality.
- **Returning to former religious practices:** The book of Hebrews shows how brotherly love is needed with some Christians who were going back to their Jewish roots.

5. **Because the world needs our love.** Without Christ, the world is lost; it is our duty to take the message of the Christ to the world. How will the world know to listen to us? Our love for one another shows the world that we belong to Jesus. John 13:35. When we show the agape love that Christ showed for mankind, the world identifies us as being of Jesus. When that love manifests itself in us, and we do good works, the world sees God. Matthew 5:16.



Here is something to think about: you may be the only Christian that some people ever encounter in their entire lives. What will that person see in us if we do not have the agape love that God wants us to have? Will having the proper love for others make it harder or easier for us to influence them to Christ? Why? _____

6. **Because our religion is not pure without proper love.** One way we show our love is through the benevolent caring for others. James 1:27. If we do not provide this benevolent care of those in need, our religion is not pure and undefiled. What will be the end of a person whose religion is not pure and undefiled? _____

7. **Because we are profited nothing without proper love.** Doing great and wonderful things does not make up for a lack of love. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. Why is this the case? Why isn't it good enough to just do the right things regardless of our motives? _____

8. **Because whatever we do to our brethren, it is the SAME as doing it unto**

Christ. How we treat our brethren matters. Many seem to forget Jesus' teaching on the matter in Matthew 25:31-46, or at least they act as if they do not believe Jesus' lesson. Consider Saul. Did he really persecute Jesus? The scriptures show that he was infamous for persecuting Christians, but Jesus? Well yes, Jesus said to Saul on the road to Damascus in Acts 9:1-5: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" He didn't ask why Saul was persecuting His followers, but rather Him. And why should we think otherwise? We are Christ's body!!! Ephesians 1:23, 5:30. So yes, every time we do something to another member of the body, we are doing it to Christ.

Something to Ponder

If we are too busy in our personal lives to exhort each other and help each other out when we are in need, will Christ think we are too busy for Him?

9. **Because loving each other is commanded.** Christians are commanded to have **agape** love one for another. John 13:34, 1 Peter 2:17, 1 John 4:7-8, and 1 Peter 4:8. Not only are we to have this love for each other, we are to *abound* in this love toward one another, and we are to actively pursue agape love. 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13, 1 Timothy 6:11. Christians are also commanded to have **phileo** love for one another. 1 Peter 3:8-9. Can Christians safely ignore these commands from God? _____

10. **Because not having love for the brethren is a sin, punishable by eternal death.**

John describes those who do not have agape love for their brethren as *children of the devil*. 1 John 3:10-12. In verse 14, he continues and says that these people abide in death. These are some pretty strong words. We know we are to love because God has provided us instruction on love. All disobedience to God is sin. James 4:17. The wages of sin is death. Romans 6:23. Given this, will those who do not love the brethren be in Heaven? _____



How to Obtain Sisterly Love

The Bible claims love to be of great import, and therefore we need to obtain it. From where and how do we get this love?

Agape love comes from God and knowledge of His word. Paul writes in Galatians 5:22 that agape love is one part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. God is the One who makes us increase and abound in love. 1 Thessalonians 3:12. Paul writes that the holy scriptures, given through inspiration of the Holy Spirit, make man complete and equip him to every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Since love is a good work, then the scriptures equip us to love. Peter tells us that God has given us "all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of Him". 2 Peter 1:2-4. Since love pertains to life and godliness, then love comes from knowledge.

Look up the passages and tell how the Christian obtains knowledge.

2 Peter 3:17-18 _____

2 Peter 1:5-8 _____

2 Timothy 2:15 _____



Agape love is learned by the maturing Christian. The mature Christian will have the agape love that Christ has for us. As Christians learn, grow, and mature, they are to become Christ-like. If Christ is God and God is love, then Christ is love. And so, to be Christ-like, we must have love. What must a Christian do to learn agape love?

The first thing the maturing Christian must do is *learn to put away childish things*. 1 Corinthians 13:11. What is the difference between being child-like (Matthew 18:3) and having childish things? What are some childish things we should put away?



The second thing the maturing Christian must do is *learn to take on the positive characteristics of love*. 1 Corinthians 13:4-6. We should be long-suffering (patient) and kind, rejoice in truth, bear all things, believe all things, and endure all things.

The third thing the maturing Christian must do is *learn to serve others*. In Matthew 23:11, Jesus taught that the greatest in the kingdom would be he who serves. Jesus not only verbally taught about serving, he also provided an example by washing his disciples feet. John 13:3-17. Helping and serving others should be habitual, almost second nature, to the Christian. It should be just like getting up in the morning and feeding yourself because you need to eat.

The fourth thing the maturing Christian must do is *learn to put others first*. Titus 3:14. This principle applies even when it comes to our very lives. John 15:12-13 and 1 John 3:16-18. This is probably one of the hardest commands we have. It is often easy for us to put our own children first, but what about our brothers and sisters in Christ? Putting others first requires complete selflessness.

Attitude Check

I woke up early today, excited over all I get to do before the clock strikes midnight. I have responsibilities to fulfill today. I am important. My job is to choose what kind of day I am going to have.

Today I can complain because the weather is rainy or I can be thankful that the grass is getting watered for free

Today I can feel sad that I don't have more money or I can be glad that my finances encourage me to plan my purchases wisely and guide me away from waste.

Today I can grumble about my health or I can rejoice that I am alive.

Today I can lament over all that my parents didn't give me when I was growing up or I can feel grateful that they allowed me to be born.

Today I can cry because roses have thorns or I can celebrate that thorns have roses.

Today I can mourn my lack of friends or I can excitedly embark upon a question to discover new relationships.

Today I can whine because I have to go to work or I can shout for joy because I have a job to do.

Today I can murmur dejectedly because I have housework or I can feel honored because the Lord has provided shelter for my mind, body, and soul.

Today stretches ahead of me, waiting to be shaped. And here I am, the sculptor who gets to do the shaping.

What today will be like is up to me. I get to choose what kind of day I will have!

Author Unknown



10 Good Ways To Show Our Sisterly Love

Here are 10 ways we can show our love for one another.

1. **By being openly affectionate with one another.** In Romans 12:10, Paul tells the church,

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another

What kind of love is Paul talking about here? _____

A church may be very openly affectionate, but that affection can be lost over time. Ephesus was described as having lost its first love. A loving church must guard to ensure it does not lose its affection for one other.

2. **By being empathetic.** We must be empathetic. Hebrews 13:3 instructs us,
Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also.

To have empathy means to identify oneself completely with another, sometimes even to the point of responding physically. We are to both share in the joy of others and to weep with those who are sad. We are to have the *same mind*. Romans 12:15-16

Women are naturally more empathetic than are men and thus this is an area in which woman can fill an important, vital need in the church.

3. **By being hospitable.** We should be given to hospitality. Romans 12:13. Being hospitable is so important that it is listed as one of the qualifications for elders! The scriptures instruct us to be hospitable to strangers (Hebrews 13:2) and toward each other (1 Peter 4:9). Our hospitality should be done with an attitude similar to that required of our giving: it should be because we want to do so and not out of necessity.

4. **By praying for one another.** James tells us we are to pray for one another that we might be healed. James 5:16-17. The apostles often asked that those to whom they wrote to pray for them. 1 Thessalonians 5:25, 2 Thessalonians 3:1, Hebrews 13:18. They also prayed for the brethren. Colossians 1:19. What are some things for which we can pray for each other?

5. **By tending to the physical needs of the saints.** Christians love is to go much further than just praying for one another and feeling each others' joy and pain. We are to share our earthly goods with one another, distributing to the needs of one another. Hebrews 13:16, Romans 12:13. This point is driven home in 1 John 3:17-18 and James 2:14-17.

Most Christians in the United States are blessed beyond any other on the face of the earth. If we are to follow the example set by the Christians of the first century, what are some of the things we might do? _____



6. ***By tending to the spiritual needs of the saints.*** If we truly love our brethren, we will exhort them to ensure they will spend eternity in Heaven with God. Hebrews 3:12-19. Paul instructs Timothy to provide admonishment and exhortation in 1 Timothy 5:1. Read the following passages and fill in the blanks with some of the ways we can exhort, encourage, and admonish one another to help with spiritual needs.

Colossians 3:16 _____

Hebrews 10:24-25 _____

Jude 1:22-23 _____



7. ***By loving with a sincere love.*** God has never been pleased with form only -- that is actions that do not match our intentions. He wants our hearts to be in what we do. In Matthew 6:5, Jesus tells His disciples they are not to be as those who pray openly to be seen of men. And in our worship, God demands not only form (truth) but also our hearts (spirit). John 4:24. Our love can be no different: it is not to be for show only. Our love must be a true and sincere love. What is another name for a love that is in action only and is not true and sincere? See Romans 12:9. _____

8. ***By being peaceful.*** When we live in peace, we have harmonious relations that are free from dispute. We should not grumble and complain against our brethren. James 5:9. Those who are obsessed with disputes and arguments of words are to be avoided. 1 Timothy 6:3-5. In verse 11, we are instructed to flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness -- all of which will result in peace. These forbidden behaviors we are to flee go hand and hand with some concepts that are described as being works of the flesh. Galatians 5:19-21. Which of the works of the flesh are most closely related with not being peaceful? _____

Now compare these with the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23. Which of the fruit of the spirit are most closely related with being peaceful? _____



9. ***By assuming the best, not the worst in each other.*** Have you ever noticed how sometimes we act like we can read minds? How many times have hard feelings between people turned out to be based on simple misunderstandings and bad assumptions rather than on solid facts? The Bible tells us that Christ reads the hearts and minds of men. Revelation 2:23

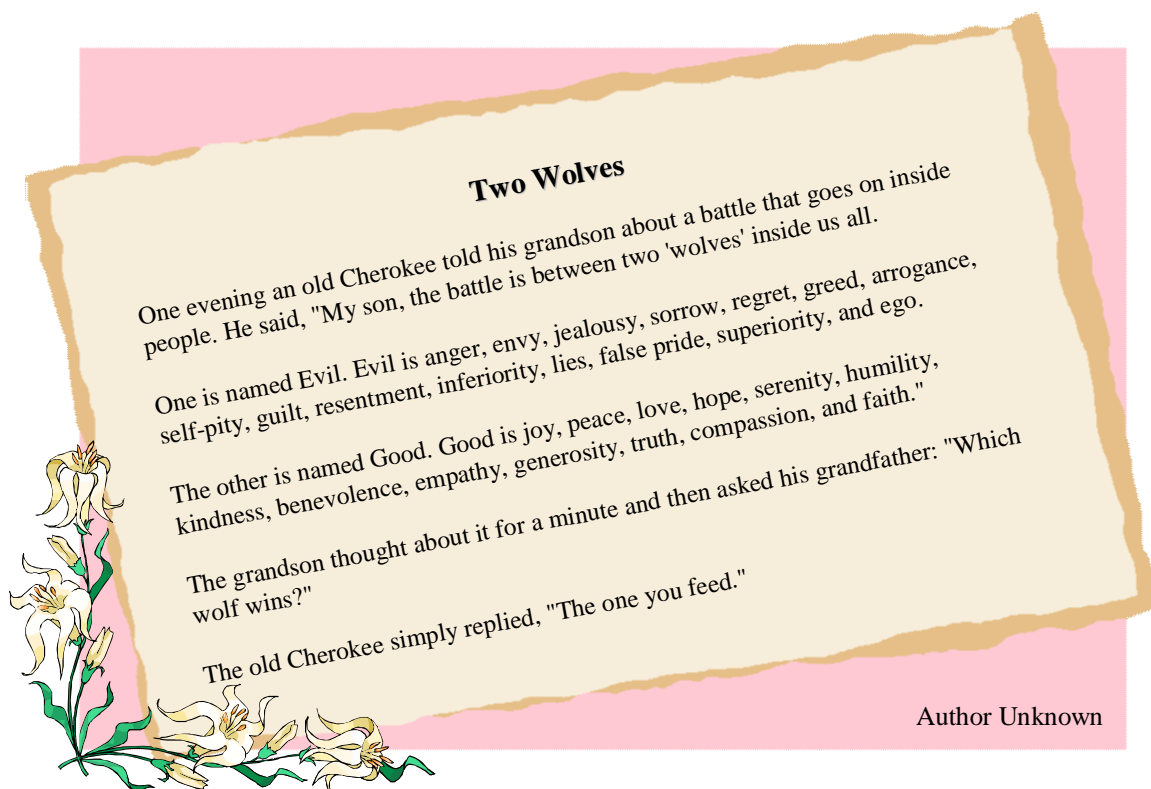
all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

Only Christ can know the true motives of individuals. We humans cannot. We also are not all knowing and therefore cannot know all the surrounding circumstances. When we have suspicions about others' actions or intentions, we should not attempt to avenge ourselves. Romans 12:19. Rather, we should assume the best and "turn the other cheek". Matthew 5:39-42. Why is it sometimes hard for us to assume the best in others?

10. ***By always being ready to forgive one another.*** Sometimes even when we assume the best, our brother or sister will offend us. We should always be ready and eager to forgive others. Jesus was ready to forgive those who spat upon him and cursed him. Luke 23:34.

³⁴Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

If we are to be Christ-like, we can do no less. Ephesians 4:32 and Colossians 3:12-14. Jesus teaches that we must forgive our brother or sister every time he asks for forgiveness, and He gives a very important lesson: if we do not forgive others, God will not forgive us. Matthew 18:21-22. Why might one not be willing to forgive her brother or sister?





Lesson Fun



Across

- 3. Love is a fruit of the _____.
- 6. Jesus will remove this for the church that loses its love.
- 8. The Christian should put away _____ things.
- 11. Someone who acts as if he loves but does not really love.
- 14. One means through which we can admonish each other.
- 15. We should show this to one another.
- 17. One reason we should pray for one another.
- 18. Those who do not love their brethren are children of the _____.
- 20. We should exhort each other rather than doing this to the assembly.
- 22. We must be this toward the saints.
- 24. Love bears, believes, hopes and endures this.
- 26. This person is the greatest in the Lord's kingdom.
- 29. God will not do this for us if we do not do this for our brethren.

Down

- 1. This makes man complete and equips him to every good work.
- 2. Love is _____ faith and hope.
- 4. The affectionate love that friends have toward one another.
- 5. Love does not behave itself this way
- 7. Those who are _____ will be zealous for love.
- 9. We should not jump to bad assumptions about other's _____.
- 10. We should not have these with our brethren.
- 12. The unconditional, benevolent, and self-sacrificing love that Christians must have.
- 13. Christians should give preference to _____.
- 16. We must be this way to our brethren and to strangers.
- 19. This is how the world knows we are Christ's.
- 21. Saul did this to Christ.
- 23. This means to identify oneself completely with another.
- 25. The natural affection we have for family and kin.
- 27. True love requires us to lay this down if necessary.
- 28. There is no place for this in God's church.
- 30. Love does not rejoice in this



Hidden Message



L H B E Y T H I A S A L S L W I L L K E N O W T H
 O A E T C Y O B U E A E R C E G M Y D G R I S C I
 N H P A L N O E C S L I H F R Y O U H N A U V E L
 G O A V R U E I E F F R O U R O N E A I N O D T H
 S H E R N T O L L R I L M D P Z L J Q V A L U N R
 U Y W D M J S E O S P B H U W O X X C I M G L N E
 F P R Q E O S N T V L S S E N K E E M G A K A H S
 F O O R C S N I W I E Z G Q G Y I W V R V C M P S
 E C O M P L A I N T S N T H E S S A L O N I C A E
 R R D O B N H G O L F S E V S A A V C F G I D M N
 I I E N T A S P L U H X V B C I T E H T A P M E I
 N S Y F T Z Q R I O S B C V N Y N V S W R V C G L
 G Y R R I R S U S P I C I O U S L C T T X B O D D
 I T E Y V L A P H E H D D C H O S R E B E D J E O
 I D M W L X I S T U G E L S K E U E E R E R Z L G
 A F F E C T I O N S C A I J X E E C N H I L G W G
 Z G I V A D E G V A E N R H L V R U T D T T Y O E
 M Y W L L O E C M J O V O U R J Q O Y Z N O Y N R
 O F I I B R E F A M E R I E O V L C V Q J I R K U
 U T H J R S E L D E T A S T P C V P O Q R H K B T
 Y C X R A U N A I U P P O X O X N R E Y A R P Q A
 I E P I H S H P J H F P N O B M H E D W D K B P M
 M P N V P X N Z M N P J Q H D N A M N T R A U G I
 U T N J Q E N E V Y L S M O G Z Y H W U R C Q D Z
 S K H O X I S E O W Y L R E T S I S S K M V E M H

Find the words below. Then copy the unused letters in order until the blanks are filled to find a special message to us.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| ABOUT | ENCOURAGE | HYPOCRISY | PHILEO |
| ADMONISH | ENDURE | JOY | PRAYER |
| AFFECTION | EXHORT | KINDNESS | REJOICE |
| AGAPE | FORGIVING | KNOWLEDGE | SAINTS |
| BENEVOLENCE | GODLINESS | LIFE | SELFLESS |
| BICKER | GRUMBLINGS | LONGSUFFERING | SERVE |
| BROTHERLY | HARMONIOUS | MACEDONIA | SINCERITY |
| CHILDISH | HATRED | MATURE | SISTERLY |
| CHRISTIAN | HEARTS | MEEKNESS | STERGO |
| CLOTHED | HOSPITALITY | MOTIVES | SUSPICIOUS |
| COMPLAINTS | HUNGER | PEACE | THESSALONICA |
| EMPATHETIC | | | |



Song Lyrics

Blest Be The Tie

John Fawcett, 1782, public domain

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.

The Gospel in One Word

Traditional folk song

Love, love, love, love
The Gospel in one word is love
Love thy neighbor as thy brother
Love, love, love

Peace, peace, peace, peace
The Gospel in one word is peace
Peace that passes all understanding
Peace, peace, peace

Joy, joy, joy, joy
The Gospel in one word is joy
Joy that fills to overflowing
Joy, joy, joy



Let the Beauty of Jesus Be Seen In Me

Albert Orsbon, 1916. Background: <http://www.defenderoftruth.com/page14.html>

Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me,
All His wonderful passion and purity;
My His spirit divine all my being refine,
Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.

When somebody has been so unkind to you,
Some words spoken that pierces you thru and thru;
Think how He was beguiled, spat upon and reviled,
Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in you.

From the dawn of the morning to close of day,
In example in deeds and in all you say;
Lay your gifts at His feed, ever strive to keep sweet,
Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in you.

Love One Another

D.K.P., 1800's. Background: <http://www.defenderoftruth.com/page9.html>

Angry words! O let them never from the tongue unbridled slip;
May the heart's best impulse ever check them ere they soil the lip.
"Love one another", thus saith the Savior; Children obey the Father's blest command;
"Love one another", thus saith the Savior; Children obey the blest command.

Love is much too pure and holy, friendship is too sacred far,
For a moment's reckless folly thus to desolate and mar.
"Love one another", thus saith the Savior; Children obey the Father's blest command;
"Love one another", thus saith the Savior; Children obey the blest command.

Let our words be sweetly spoken; let kind tho'ts be greatly stirred;
Show our love to one another with abundance of kind words.
"Love one another", thus saith the Savior; Children obey the Father's blest command;
"Love one another", thus saith the Savior; Children obey the blest command.



We Are One in The Spirit

Ed. Laura S. Tinnel, 2007

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love

We will walk with each other, we will walk side by side
We will walk with each other, we will walk side by side
And we'll show all the reason that our dear Messiah died
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love

We will work with each other, we will work hand in hand
We will work with each other, we will work hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news of God throughout our land
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love

When We All Get to Heaven

Eliza E. Hewitt, 1989, public domain

Sing the wondrous love of Jesus, Sing His mercy and His grace;
In the mansions bright and blessed, He'll prepare for us a place.

When we all get to heaven, What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus, We'll sing and shout the victory!

While we walk the pilgrim pathway, Clouds will overspread the sky;
But when trav'ling days are over, Not a shadow, not a sigh.

When we all get to heaven, What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus, We'll sing and shout the victory!

Let us then be true and faithful, Trusting, serving every day;
Just one glimpse of Him in glory Will the toils of life repay.

When we all get to heaven, What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus, We'll sing and shout the victory!



Reflections

You know time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years.

It seems just yesterday that I was a young girl, just married and embarking on my new life with my husband. And yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all...

And I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams... but here it is... the winter of my life, and it catches me by surprise.

How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go, and where did my babies go? And where did my youth go?

I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But, here it is...husband retired, and he's really getting gray. He moves slower, and I see an older man now. He's in much better shape than me, but I see the great change. He's not the one I married who was dark and young and strong, but, like me, his age is beginning to show, and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore...it's mandatory! Because if I don't by my own free will...I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things.

But, at least I know, that though the winter has come... and I'm not sure how long it will last... this I know, that when it's over, I will enjoy the Spring in the arms of my loving Father and wait for my loved ones to come when their winter is over too.

If you're not in your winter yet, let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly!

Remember the scripture 'our life is but a vapor, it vanishes away.' Do what you can today because you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life. Live for God today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember.

John 9:4

Jesus said "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."

Ecclesiastes 12:13

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Author Unknown