

Home Group Notes

Week of February 25, 2024

2 Peter 1: "You CAN Have it All" week #8 – Brotherly/sisterly love



COMMUNITY?

Many in our culture will say that being in 'community' is one of their highest priorities. For you, what makes being in the community of God's family important enough that you make it a high priority?

INTRODUCTION TO OUR STUDY FOR THIS WEEK

We are walking through a letter in the Bible written to (1) encourage believers to live in the knowledge and grace of God, (2) to be people of holiness and godliness, and (3) to warn them of false teachers, and (4) to be prepared for the difficult days ahead. This letter could be written to the church today. These same challenges and dangers are in our culture and the same grace and knowledge of God is just as needed.

Peter said in chapter one that the result of adding certain qualities (practices) is that "we can become partakers of the divine nature." That is, we can grow to be more like Jesus. Each week we are highlighting one quality that Peter says to add to our genuine faith. The sequence looks like this: Add to your faith, goodness (excellence), to goodness add knowledge, to knowledge add self-control, to self-control add perseverance, to perseverance add godliness. Peter then wrote to add "brotherly/sisterly love" to godliness. Written in sequence, it looks like the following:
Faith – Goodness – Knowledge – Self-control – Perseverance – Godliness – **Brotherly/sisterly love**

Definition: This week's word is a compound from the words "brother/sister" and "love" or "affection." It could be translated here as "brotherly/sisterly love, family love, or love between siblings."

LISTENING TO GOD IN HIS WORD

The author is the Apostle Paul and he has made a list of qualities that every follower of Jesus should add to one's life in order that we become more like Jesus Christ (i.e. "partakers of the divine nature"). As we look at this week's quality, brotherly/sisterly love, we could ask two questions:

- 1) Why is this 'on the list?' There are many qualities available – why this?
- 2) How is this different from the command to "love" that comes after?

Read the following examples of how this word (brotherly/sisterly love) is used in connection to God's family.

Romans 12:10

1 Thessalonians 4:9

Hebrews 13:1

1 Peter 1:22

Read the following examples of how New Testament writers address God's family.

Acts 10:23; 11:12 (This term is found 56 times in Acts)

Romans 12:1; 15:30

1 Corinthians 12:1

Philippians 2:25; 4:21

Since Peter commands us to add 'family love,' what do you think this is expressed? What does it mean to you to love God's family? How is this practically lived out?

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

Do you love the family of God? Some believers think that it doesn't matter if we are attached to a church, that we don't need to be connected or attend. How would they follow Peter's command to add love for brothers and sisters in Christ? This week, if you know someone who claims to be a Christian and is not yet connected in a church, perhaps invite them into a fellowship of those who follow Jesus, Trinity or otherwise. And for yourself, what could you do this week to express love for someone in God's family?

DISCUSS TOGETHER

In our previous weeks, we have seen the writer call us to grow in a list of qualities. Last week, we said that "godliness" means to "live before God with reverent loyalty, holy, fully devoted to God." Why is there a command to add love for God's family on this list? How is this connected to becoming "partakers of the divine nature" (i.e. becoming like Jesus)?

At the beginning and end of Peter's list, he commanded us to "make every effort" to add this into our lives (1:5, 8,10). How would we "add" this? What do you know from other places in the Bible?

Since Peter will next command us to add "love" (*agape*), what is the difference? How is it significant in God's master plan that he commands us to add "brotherly/sisterly love?"

PLEASE PRAY

- Please pray for the your adopted Global Partners
- Please pray for our sister churches throughout the Inland Empire
- Please pray for our elected officials and for believers to live in love and peace with people