

**"LOVE ONE ANOTHER"****Introduction**

1. This is a fundamental subject
2. These are things that we know well, but we do not practice faithfully.
3. There are five things that this chapter teaches us concerning this important subject.

**1. BASED ON GOD**

- 1) REDEMPTION (v.16):
  - (i) This love for the brethren is built on the example of Christ giving his life for us.
  - (ii) The redemption of Christ is what enables Christians to love one another.
  - (iii) We might not have many things in common, but if we are redeemed by Christ we cannot but love one another
- 2) ADOPTION (v.1-2):
  - (i) Why do Christians love one another? For they are members of one family.
  - (ii) How sad when brothers and sisters fight. How sad when God's children fight! It displeases our heavenly Father!

**2. CHRIST'S COMMANDMENT**

- 1) In v.23 the Holy Spirit puts loving our brethren in the same sentence, almost on the same level, with faith in Christ.
- 2) In v.10 lack of love is compared to lack of righteousness and to being children.
- 3) Jesus said that the second greatest commandment is: 'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.'

- 4) One of the last things he said to the apostles was: 'A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.' Are you obeying Jesus' commandments?

**3. THE MARK OF A TRUE CHRISTIAN (v.23)**

- 1) This verse does not teach salvation by works. It teaches us that when there is faith in Jesus the result is love for our fellow Christians. V.14-15 tell us that he that does not love his brother is spiritually dead.
- 2) In the next chapter, John solemnly writes: 'If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?' Do you love your brethren?

**4. PRACTICAL (v.17-18)**

- 1) It is easy to say that we love our brethren. It is altogether different to practice this love in our daily experiences. What can I do? Open your house. Make a phone call. Pray for those who suffer. DO GOOD.

**5. AN INVINCIBLE WITNESS**

- 1) Loving your brethren is the proof that we are the Lord's people. It proves not just to us that we are no more the children of wrath but the children of God. Jesus said: 'By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.
- 2) Why is the church so weak? Why so few converted even when the gospel is faithfully preached? Love the brethren.

## 6. THE MEANS OF BLESSING

- 1) Answer to our prayers: If we obey his commandments, God promises that he would give us what we ask (v.22)
- 2) Fellowship with God:  
**Q.** What would enable us to love God and enjoy him?  
**A.** Loving our brethren (which is the summary of the law) is the condition required by God to have fellowship with God.