

Add to Your Faith
Brotherly Kindness
Lk. 10:25-37

Introduction:

Brotherly kindness is from the Greek word (5360) philadelphia (fil-ad-el-fee'-ah); which means "fraternal affection." The word is translated as "brotherly love (kindness)" or "love of the brethren."

If we love God then we definitely should love His children. This brotherly love is the kind of love that we need to have for each other.

Brotherly kindness involves more than just being kind to one another.

While this term (philadelphia) is not used in Luke 10, the idea of "brotherly love" (or kindness) is present.

- I. When we read of "brotherly kindness" in the parable of the Good Samaritan, we notice that there is a relationship involved.**
- A. The lawyer wanted to know "Who is my neighbor?"
 - 1. The answer to this lawyer's question is an example of the relationship that we have within the church today.
 - 2. Samaritans and Jews did not like each other.
 - a. It was so bad between the two, that if someone was going from Galilee to Judah, they would cross the Jordan River and go south, then cross the river again to get to Judah.
 - b. Samaritans were half Jew, half Gentile.
 - 3. It took this Samaritan, the man's true neighbor, to take the time to help this man in need.
 - B. We should show kindness to all.
 - 1. We are commanded to be kind towards one another.
 - a. **Rom. 12:10** - Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;
 - b. We certainly want others to be kind to us.
 - c. **Mt. 7:12** - Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.
 - 2. While we should be kind to all, we should especially be kind to those who are our family (or neighbor – "The Good Samaritan").
 - C. Today, we may ask, "Who is my brother?"
 - D. If we are children of God, we are brothers of Christ.
 - 1. **Mt. 12:46-50**
 - 2. **Rom. 8:16-17** - The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, {17} and if children, then heirs-- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.
 - E. We should do good to all, especially those who are our family in Christ.
 - 1. **Gal. 6:10** - Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

II. Brotherly kindness involves action towards one another.

- A. The priest and the Levite passed by on the other side of the road.
 - 1. No reason is given as to why they did not help.
 - 2. They may have been in a hurry to get to where they were going.
 - 3. They may have wanted to remain clean instead of becoming clean.
 - 4. It is important for us to know that they had just as good of an opportunity to do good as the Samaritan.
 - a. Sometimes we make excuses for not doing good to others.
 - b. Instead of making excuses, we need to take advantage of the opportunities that we have.
- B. Sometimes trials come upon us all.
 - 1. There are times in our lives when we struggle with certain things.
 - 2. It is at that time that we need our brethren the most.
- C. Being kind involves several things.
 - 1. In this parable of Jesus, it involved helping with immediate physical needs.
 - 2. Forgiveness
 - a. Eph. 4:32 - And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.
 - 3. Helping with spirituality
 - a. Gal. 6:1 - Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.
 - 4. Helping with needs
 - a. Acts 2:44-45 - Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, {45} and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.
 - b. Acts 4:32, 34-35 - Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. {34} Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, {35} and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.
 - c. James 2:15-16 - If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, {16} and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?
- D. Brotherly love requires *action* on our part.

III. When we are kind to others, it generally makes us feel better about ourselves.

- A. This is not expressly mentioned in this story, but we can see in our own lives that it is true.
- B. There is something about being kind to others when we do not expect to get kindness returned to us.
 - 1. Jesus tells us to do good to those who cannot repay us.
 - a. **Luke 14:12-14** - Then He also said to him who invited Him, "When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. {13} But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. {14} And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."
 - b. If we are kind to others just because we are expecting kindness in return, we have an earthly reward but not a heavenly reward.
- C. We are even to be kind to our enemies.
 - 1. **Pr. 25:21-22** - If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; {22} For so you will heap coals of fire on his head, and the LORD will reward you.
 - 2. **Rom. 12:20-21** - Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." {21} Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
- D. When we are kind to others, we do not lose our reward.
 - 1. **Mt. 10:42** - And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.

Conclusion:

As we look at this parable of Jesus, it is interesting to notice that there is no record of the man in need thanking the Samaritan. However, this did not excuse the Samaritan from his neighborly duty.

We are commanded to add brotherly kindness to our faith. Are we building on our faith?