

From faith to love #7

Brotherly Affection

Colossians 3:1-14



Our Journey Toward God



- We are blessed with a **new life** and with **every blessings** (2 Peter 1:3-4)
- God gave us a **roadmap** (8 steps) from faith to love
- Faith—**trusting** Jesus (where relationship begins)
- Goodness—**admiring** Jesus (set your eyes on Him)
- Knowledge—**knowing** Jesus (experience Him daily)
- Self-control—**imitating** Jesus (put off old flesh)
- Steadfastness—**following** Jesus (endure with Him)
- Godliness—**put on** Jesus (spiritual exercise)

Spiritual growth is a process (and a progress)



Serve God and Others

Love (serve with all)
Brotherly Kindness (serve with actions)

Grow in Christ

Godliness (putting on Jesus)
Steadfastness (following Jesus)
Self-control (imitating Jesus)

Connect with God

Knowledge of God and self
Goodness of God
Faith in God





Step #6 Godliness

- Godliness—we are called to **grow toward Christlikeness** (Rom. 8:29; Eph. 5:1) with our new life in Christ
- Christlikeness **characters** comes through **endurance** (Rom. 5:3-4; Heb. 12:11)
- After we determined to **put off** our old flesh (sinful patterns) we must also **put on** new spiritual disciplines (habits) in replacement of the old
- Godliness without faith and knowledge are dangerous (1 Tim. 6:3-5; 2 Tim. 3:1-7)
- #6 Godliness—the internal spiritual fruits
- #7 Brotherly love—the external spiritual fruits (#6 godliness—internal)



Brotherly Affection



- Brotherly affection (ESV) or brotherly kindness (KJV, ASV)
- **Philadelphia** (5 times in NT), root meaning as “brother” or “kinsman”
- Like the English word “brother”, it implies a bond of kinship and codependence, as to close friends or neighbors
- This is also **love**, but not from the position of commitment or sacrifice, rather referring to **the behavior of love**, i.e. kindness, gentleness, compassion, etc.
- #7 Brotherly love—the external spiritual fruits (#6 godliness—internal)
- Note: behavior can come before commitment or feelings (Read Col 3:1-14, notice the pattern)

Why not Brotherly Kindness?

- (Eph. 4:17-21) The foundation of brotherly love must first base on a healthy relationship with God and self
- One of the main reason of our self-center behavior (thinking)—an **unhealthy understanding of God or self**

I must look out for the good old me because...

- As our **knowledge of God** and **identity in Christ** deepen, we will discover less and less need to defend ourselves, and to begin to look beyond self



*Do you actually **trust** God to provide all things?*

*Do you **know** that you are His pearl of great value?*

*Are you **standing** on the truth that God will not (and cannot) fail you?*

How is your relationship with God?





- From **Philadelphia** to **Agape** (Col. 3:12-14), there are 7 behaviors in practice:
- **Compassionate hearts**—a sympathy heart with actions (1 John 3:17-18; Luke 7:13)
- **Kindness**—the action of goodness, be polite, be gentle, and a good listener with empathy (Gal 5:22)
- **Humility**—see others more significant than ourselves (Phil 2:3-4) and to see ourselves with the grace of God (Rom. 12:1-3)

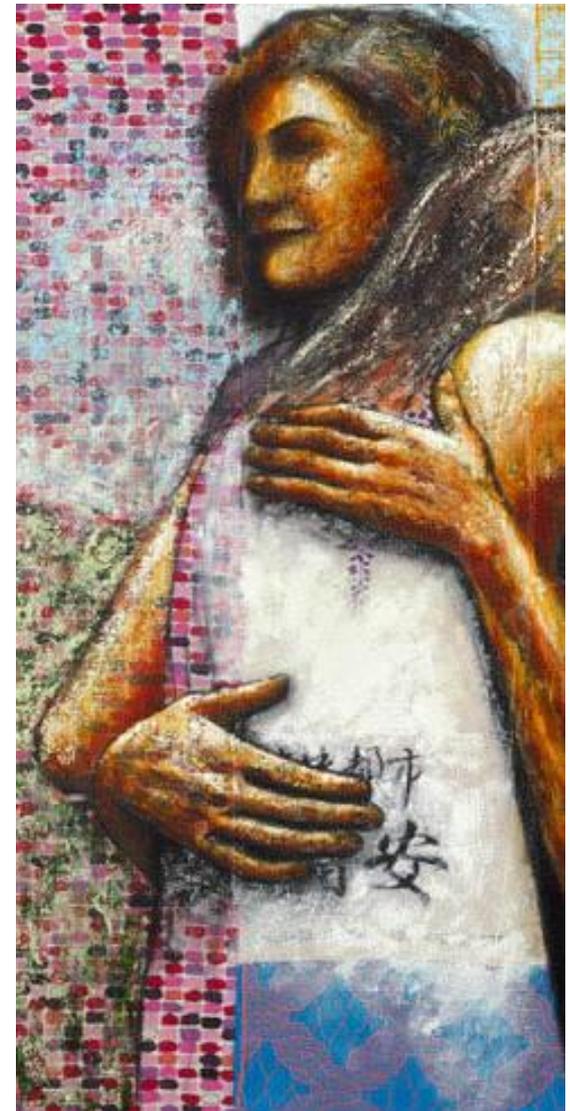
7 Characters of Love

Meekness—respond to harshness with gentleness and kindness (Prov. 15:1; Eph. 4:2)

Patience—endure with persistence and perseverance in difficult circumstances (2 Tim. 4:2)

Bearing with one another—kindness with forbearance, even if the person do not respond in kind (1 Thes. 5:15)

Forgiving each other—to see the love of God greater than the pain you have received (Eph. 4:32)



Conclusion

Do you really trust Jesus for your safety?

Which one character is missing in your life?



- **Philadelphia** is brotherly love—the actions (behaviors) of love
- Brotherly love is the opposite of **self-center thinking**—when there is no need for defense
- The foundation of brotherly love must first base on a healthy relationship with God and self
- The 7 **characters** (practices) of Philadelphia:
*Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these **put on love**, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (Colossians 3:12-14)*