

# Assurance 101

## Lesson 6

### Brotherly Kindness

#### PART I EXPLANATION

**Introduction:** Up until this point in the path to biblical assurance the emphasis has been entirely focused upon the individual and their relationship to God. It is a point to be noticed that the Bible always begins first and foremost with man and his relationship to God as the root to solving his problems. But now the emphasis turns toward how to treat our fellow brethren. When the Bible refers to brotherly kindness it is talking primarily about a love for the saints. Without a love for the brethren the genuineness of a profession is severely in doubt.

Christ summed up what the entire Bible is attempting to teach in one simple verse: love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength; **and your neighbor as yourself**. Sometimes the second part of that i.e. loving our neighbor; is the more difficult because our fellow man does not always treat us the way that we feel we deserve to be treated. A primary obstacle to fostering genuine brotherly kindness is the failure to deal with these injustices; which instead promotes tension and bitterness. Another obstacle is selfishness; which is why the standard is to love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves. Selfish people are not concerned with others.

Sad to say but there are many people who have a measure of godliness who could best be described as “unkind”. It is equally shameful when there is a church environment where brotherly love does not prevail. This is the cause of much discouragement among God’s people; when church problems arise that are the results of a lack of affection for each other. This type of environment reveals that injustices are not being dealt with, and that the church is possibly full of unregenerate people.

The concept of brotherly kindness is a great indicator of a genuine salvation. You could even say that this should be “the” identifying mark of a genuine believer. The book of First John, which primarily deals with the subject of our assurance of salvation, mentions the concept of brotherly love more than any other. The reason that brotherly kindness is such an accurate indicator is that every child of God has the same nature, the nature of God. Because of that, it is not possible for the nature of God to hate itself. The Bible guarantees that every one that loveth Him that *begat* loveth him also that is *begotten* of Him. John makes very bold statements that a person that does not love the brethren is a liar and walking in darkness.

However, the brotherly love mentioned in this passage is not referring solely to the *natural* affection that Christian people have for one another because that does not require any diligence to add to your faith. The brotherly kindness that needs to be sought after is a growing affection and appreciation for the gifts and graces of fellow believers but also a compassion and sympathy with each others weaknesses and infirmities. For example, it is natural for a parent to love their first child even though they can get easily frustrated and even angry in dealing with the crying, teething, and many other troubles. However, an experienced grandparent grows to love that little child unselfishly and with gentle care as a priceless treasure. Because they have matured themselves it changes their perspective of the child’s weaknesses and difficulties.

**Definitions:** *For English use the Webster’s 1828 Dictionary and copy all appropriate definitions for each word. For the Greek and Hebrew use a Strong’s Concordance and copy the definition. The Strong’s number is in parenthesis.*

English: **Kind** -

**Kindness -**

**Benevolence -**

Greek: (5360) **philadelphia** *fil-ad-el-fee'-ah*

5363. **philanthropia** *fil-an-thro-pee'-ah*

(5543) **chrestos** *khrese-tos'*

Hebrew: (2617) **chesed** *kheh'-sed*

**Quotation:**

“As you have seen the mason take up first one stone, and then another, and thus gradually build the house, so are you Christians to take first one virtue, and then another, and then another, and to pile up these stones of grace one upon the other until you have built a palace for the indwelling of the Holy Ghost.

Faith, of course, comes first, because faith is the foundation of all the graces, and there can be no true grace where there is no true faith. Then, “add to your faith virtue,” which should have been translated “courage.” True courage is a very great blessing to the Christian; indeed, without it, how will he be able to face his foes? “And to courage knowledge;” for courage without knowledge would be foolish rashness, which would lead you to the cannon’s mouth when there was nothing to be gained by flinging away your life.

“And to knowledge;” for there are some who no sooner get knowledge than they are carried away with the new doctrine which they have learned, and become like men intoxicated, for it is possible to be intoxicated even with truth. Happy is that Christian who has temperance with his knowledge; who, while holding one doctrine, does not push that to the extreme, but learns to hold other doctrines in due conformity with it. “And to temperance patience;” or endurance, so that we are able to endure the “trial of cruel mockings” or sharp pains, or fierce persecutions, or the usual afflictions of this life. He is a poor Christian who has no power of endurance; a true Christian must “endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”

“And to endurance godliness;” having a constant respect to God in all our ways, living to God, and living like God so far as the finite can be like the Infinite. “And to godliness brotherly kindness.” O dear friends, let us be very kind to those who are our brothers in Christ Jesus; let the ties of Christian kinship unite us in the true brotherhood to each other. “And to brotherly kindness charity;” let us have love to all men, though specially to the household of faith.”  
Charles Spurgeon

“It is possible to love a saint, yet not to love him as a saint; we may love him for something else, for his ingenuity, or because he is affable and bountiful. A beast loves a man, but not as he is a man, but because he feeds him, and gives him provender. But to love a saint as he is a saint, this is a sign of love to God.” Thomas Watson

“So peculiar is this blessing of the Gospel, that Christ appoints it for the badge and cognizance by which they should not only know one another, but even strangers would be able to know them from any other sect and sort of men in the world: “By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, that ye love one another.” William Gurnall

“By now we have examined quite a fine collection of graces, and perhaps you would like to try them out. But wait – all your armour is not yet on. You have spiritual kinfolk, heirs of the same promise with you; therefore, you must add to

godliness, brotherly kindness. It is one of our Lord's great commandments. Our love for one another is the insignia of our allegiance to Him. If Satan can set us at odds with a brother, he gives a deep wound to our godliness and to the whole cause of Christ. He knows we will hardly join hands in a duty if we cannot join hearts in love." William Gurnall

"Affection without action is like Rachel, beautiful but barren." John Trapp

"Love of man necessarily arises out of the love of God. The love of the creature is but the corollary to the love of the Creator. This is what the Christian finds, as a matter of fact. His heart is overcharged with love to God. It finds its way out in love to man. His direct service of God cannot, in the nature of things, go very far. He worships God publicly in His house. He glorifies Him secretly in the constant outpourings of his heart. He gives of his substance to the maintenance of every cause which is God's cause. But here it ends. God is so mighty, so self-contained, that with all our puny efforts, much cannot be done to serve Him. So the Christian looks about to see how he is to show his love for God. He soon finds the way. Clearly, it must be by love for his fellow-men." John Hooper

"A greater hell I would not wish any man, than to live and not love the beloved of God." Thomas Brooks

"The saints are the walking pictures of God. If God be our Father, we shall love to see His picture of holiness in believers; shall pity them for their infirmities, but love them for their graces...It may justly be suspected that God is not the Father of those who love not His children. Though they retain the communion of saints in their creed, they banish the communion of saints out of their company." Thomas Watson

"Wicked men seem to bear great reverence to the saints departed; they canonize dead saints, but persecute living. In vain do men stand up at the creed, and tell the world they believe in God, when they abominate one of the articles of the creed, namely, the communion of saints. Surely, there is no greater sign of a man ripe for hell, than this, not only to lack grace, but to hate it." Thomas Watson

"Of love there be two principal offices, one to give, and another to forgive." John Boys

"Despise not thy neighbor, but think thyself as bad a sinner, and that the like defects may befall thee. If thou canst not excuse his doing, excuse his intent which may be good; or if the deed be evil, think it was done of ignorance; if thou canst no way excuse him, think some great temptation befell him, and that thou shouldst be worse if the like temptation befell thee; and give God thanks that the like as yet hath not befallen thee. Despise not a man being a sinner, for though he be evil today, he may turn tomorrow." William Perkins

**Confessions** (Look up and read these articles)

### **London Baptist Confession of 1689**

Chapter 18 Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation - paragraphs 1-4

## **PART II EXPLORATION**

**Key Questions** (*Answer in writing*)

1. In the path to biblical assurance, what significant change is found regarding brotherly kindness?
2. What is the Bible primarily referring to when it mentions brotherly kindness?
3. Why does loving our neighbor as ourselves pose such a difficulty?

4. What is the identifying mark of a genuine Christian?
  
5. Why does the Bible assume that the children of God will love each other?
  
6. What is revealed when a person does not love the brethren?
  
7. How is it possible for a person to be godly without adding brotherly kindness?
  
8. Why does it require diligence to add brotherly kindness?
  
9. Explain how a grandparent illustrates how we should treat our fellow brethren.
  
10. What are the two obstacles to brotherly kindness?

**Key Scriptures:**

Luke 6:35 Genuine Christians are expected to manifest the Divine nature by being like their Father. Our treatment of our \_\_\_\_\_ should be one of kindness because our Father is kind unto the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.

Acts 28:2 After Paul's ship had been destroyed in the Mediterranean Sea, they landed on an island where the natives showed \_\_\_\_\_ by starting a fire for them to be warmed by.

Romans 12:10 Because the church is a body the members should be \_\_\_\_\_ affectioned to one another giving \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ one another.

II Corinthians 6:6 Paul explained and declared that one of the defining attributes of his ministry was \_\_\_\_\_.

Ephesians 2:7 Paul called the salvation and grace of God kindness \_\_\_\_\_.

Ephesians 4:32 A key to loving the brethren is to be \_\_\_\_\_ .

Colossians 3:12-13 We are told to “put off” the old man and put on the new man in our Christian life. In his description of putting on the new man, Paul exhorts us to kindness and to be

\_\_\_\_\_ to one another and to be \_\_\_\_\_ of one another. The standard that we are to use in forgiving others is the standard that \_\_\_\_\_ used in forgiving you.

I Thessalonians 4:9 Paul expected a Christian to be \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ to love one another.

Titus 3:5 Again Paul reminds us that the kindness of God appeared in our salvation not because of our \_\_\_\_\_ of righteousness rather because of God’s \_\_\_\_\_ .

Hebrews 13:1 We are told to allow \_\_\_\_\_ love to \_\_\_\_\_ .

I Peter 1:22 Peter stresses the importance of the Christian having \_\_\_\_\_ (not fake) love for the brethren and to do so with a \_\_\_\_\_ heart \_\_\_\_\_.

I John 2:9-11 John places great emphasis upon brotherly love as an assurance of eternal life. The person that professes to walk in the \_\_\_\_\_ (be a Christian) and hateth his brother is \_\_\_\_\_ (not saved).

I John 3:10-18 John again shows us that the nature of a Christian (whether it is the divine nature) is \_\_\_\_\_ (revealed) by loving our Christian brothers. He that loveth not his brother \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_. He compares someone who doesn’t love their brother to \_\_\_\_\_ who was a murderer and we obviously realize that no murderer has \_\_\_\_\_ in them.

I John 4:7-12 John makes some absolute statements regarding love to our brother and genuine salvation. \_\_\_\_\_ one that loveth is \_\_\_\_\_ of God. He that loveth not \_\_\_\_\_ not God because God is love. God displayed His love for us by sending His Son to be the \_\_\_\_\_ for our \_\_\_\_\_ .

I John 4:20- 5:1 If you claim to be a Christian and hate your brother you are a \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Key Chapter(s)** (*Read daily and summarize in your own words the meaning of the chapter*):

I John 3-4

### **PART III EXPECTATION**

**Memory verse:** John 13:35

**Personal Definition:** (*Write a definition in your own words*)

Brotherly kindness -

**Personal Application:** Give an example of one act of brotherly kindness that someone did for you and describe the

result.

**Meditation question:** (*be prepared for discussion*) Give some reasons that a lack of brotherly kindness would be an indication that a person is or is not saved.

**Extra Credit**

Choose five people in the church and do an act of brotherly kindness toward them.