

Assurance of Salvation  
Part 100

Love for the "brothers":  
Why this love will be present

**A SHORT REVIEW!**

- As the apostle Peter reminds us, a quick review has a *purpose!*




**SAYS PETER:**  
And I will make every effort to see that you will always remember these things after I am gone.

2 Peter 1:15 (ISV)

[2 WEEKS AGO]

**God's people have a love for the unsaved (the "others").**

- A DESIRE FOR THEIR GOOD**
  - Especially their *eternal* good.
- WITH GOD-HONORING PRIORITIES**
  - Our desire for their good will translate into *action*, but only in ways that are appropriate.
  - We must reject anything that goes against their *eternal* good. Otherwise, it's "fake goodness."

[LAST WEEK]

**Who is a "brother" (according to God)?**  
**Someone who has these characteristics:\***

- ADOPTION**
  - "Brothers" are those who have been **adopted into God's family**. Jesus Christ is now their brother.
- CHARACTER TRAITS**
  - They strive to have the **character traits of the family** of God. Such characteristics can be summed up by the words "righteousness" and "holiness."
- GROWTH**
  - They strive to have these character traits in their lives, in **increasing** measure.

\* (These characteristics distinguish genuine from fake.)

**TODAY:**

- Everyone who has the character traits of God's family
  - will have *a special love* for others who have those character traits.

**IN OTHER WORDS...**

- They will have... **Love for the "brothers"**

**Love for the "brothers"**

**WHY will they have this?**

- It has to do with being part of the **family of God.**
- It has to do with being part of the **body of Christ.**

#1 REASON:

# FAMILY

Because we are part of the FAMILY

## BORN BY THE SPIRIT

- All family members have been born into the family *by the Spirit of God*. There is no other way to enter.



"I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."  
 "... the Spirit gives birth to spirit."

John 3:3b, 6b (NIV)

... children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but **born of God.**

John 1:13 (NIV)

## RESPONDING WITH TRUST

- They have responded to God's call with trust/faith.
  - They accept who Jesus is and aim to respond accordingly.



Everyone who **believes** that Jesus is the Christ has been **born of God**, ...

1 John 5:1a (ESV)

- "Believing" includes the appropriate responses (the *results* of believing).

>>> This includes responses such as repentance, growth in obedience, etc.

## SHARING THE SAME NATURE

- Family members *all* share in the same "divine nature" – the moral characteristics that distinguish *God's* family from the *devil's* family.



Through [God's great] promises you will share in the **divine nature** because you have escaped the corruption that sinful desires cause in the world.

2 Peter 1:4b (GW)

- This passage refers to God's *moral nature*. It does *not* mean that we humans will become part of God's *being!*

The context has to do with *moral* issues – godliness, righteous living, etc.

## SAYING "NO" TO A LIFE OF SIN

- Family members *cannot* go on living a life of sin.
  - They are controlled by a *new* set of "genetics" ("seed").



No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because **God's seed** remains in him; **he cannot go on sinning**, because he has been **born of God.**

1 John 3:9 (NIV)

- The word "seed" has to do with conception, producing offspring, etc.
- We now have *God's "spiritual genetics"* in us, and that influences our conduct.

## YET NEEDING TO GROW

- We are not yet 100% perfect... but the effects of salvation are *growing* in us!
- We can thank God for this growth!** IN US AND IN OTHERS



We ought always to *thank God* for you, **brothers**, and rightly so, because your *faith* is **growing** more and more, and the *love* every one of you has for each other is **increasing.**

2 Thes. 1:3 (NIV)

- However, our lack of perfection means... →

**NEEDING PATIENCE**

- This is one of the ways we can show love to our "brother"! (And a way our "brother" can show love to us.)

**Growth takes time, so we need to be patient with each other!**

**SUCH PEOPLE WILL HAVE LOVE FOR EACH OTHER**

Everyone who loves the Father [= God] also loves his children [= the "brothers"].

1 John 5:1b (GW)

**BUT ONLY THE RIGHT KIND OF LOVE!**

- There is a type of "family love" that we will NOT have!

**Not THIS kind of "family love"!**

I'd **LOVE** to bust your head open!

**Nor any of the other distortions of "love" that the unsaved offer.**

**[EXAMPLE]**

God wants you to be holy, so you should keep clear of all sexual sin.

Then each of you will control your body and live in holiness and honor—not in lustful passion as the pagans do, in their ignorance of God and his ways.

1 Thes. 4:3-5 (NLT)

**#2 REASON:**

**BODY**

**Because we are part of the BODY**

**UNITED WITH CHRIST**

Each of us is part of the "body of Christ," with Jesus as the "head."

Christ is the head of the church, which is his body.

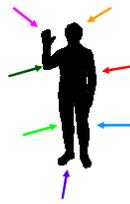
Col. 1:18a (NLT)

... even though we are many individuals, Christ makes us one body and individuals who are connected to each other.

Romans 12:5 (GW)

### ALL PARTS OF THE SAME BODY

- We all share the same body
  - Each with different gifts, abilities, etc., as both Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 teach us.



For example, the body is one unit and yet has many parts. As all the parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

1 Cor. 12:12 (GW)

### SHARING JESUS' RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS (and more)

- We all share the same righteousness that comes from Jesus.
  - It's the same righteous "blood" that flows through the whole body!



You are partners with Christ Jesus because of God.

**Jesus has become** our wisdom sent from God, **our righteousness, our holiness,** and our ransom from sin.

1 Cor. 1:30 (GW)

One family!

One body!

**ONE PURPOSE!**

... **contending as one man** for the faith of the gospel...

Philip. 1:27b (NIV)



**NOW-ALL TOGETHER**

Love for the "brothers"

**WHO** will have this?

**ONLY FAMILY MEMBERS?**

&

**ALL FAMILY MEMBERS**

### LOVE for the "brothers"!

- Without regard to social class, intellectual level, gender, nationality...

Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but **Christ is all, and is in all.**

Col. 3:11 (NIV)

- With Jesus himself as our supreme example.

**This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ** laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

1 John 3:16 (NIV)

### Can "brothers HATE "brothers"?

**NO!! It's NOT possible!**

- That would be evidence that we were NOT part of the family!

Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

1 John 3:14b-15 (NIV)

- **THIS IS WHY:** "Love for the brothers," when it's genuine,\* is **evidence of salvation.**

*We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers.*  
1 John 3:14a (NIV)

**"WE KNOW"** refers to **KNOWLEDGE.**  
**IT'S A STATEMENT OF FACT!!**

\* (We'll look at "fake love" in the future.)

### Can the WORLD have this love?

- **They can love themselves...**

If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own.  
1 John 15:19a (NIV)

- **They WON'T love the family of God.**
  - Righteous conduct implies condemnation of their sinful ways.
  - So they hate righteousness, as well as anyone who is righteous.

As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. **That is why the world hates you.**  
1 John 15:19b (NIV)

I follow Jesus!

You're not one of us!

**The world loves its own family, not God's family.**

(WORLD)

- **Don't be surprised** when the world hates you! They're only treating you the way they treated Jesus!

If **the world hates you**, keep in mind that it hated me first.  
John 15:18 (NIV)

- You are not the only one they have tried to throw off a cliff!

When they heard [what Jesus said], the people in the synagogue were furious. Jumping up, they mobbed him and took him to the edge of the hill on which the city was built. They intended to push him over the cliff, but he slipped away through the crowd and left them.  
Luke 4:28-30 (NLT)

I'm following YOU, Jesus!

We didn't get him, but we will get you!

### YOUR MISSION:

**Pursue righteousness, and get to know and LOVE your family!**

- Follow the example of your older brother, who loved you even before you became a brother!

... and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.  
Ephes. 5:2 (NIV)

