

THE TREATMENT OF BRETHREN

INTRODUCTION:

1. Christians need to study this subject that they might understand their relationship to each other better.
2. It is only when this knowledge is acquired and applied that we become to our brethren as "rivers of water in a dry place", and as "the shadow of a great rock in a weary land".
3. In too many places brethren are biting and devouring one another.
4. There is too much envy, strife and vainglory among brethren.

I. WE ARE GOD'S CHILDREN IN GOD'S FAMILY

1. We are children of God and we should act like it -- Rom. 8: 16 - 17; I John 3: 1, 9 - 10
2. We are born into this family -- John 3:5
3. We, who have been born into this family, are to LOVE one another -- I Pet. 1:22
4. This love that we are to have for one another will be shown in DEEDS -- I John 3:18
5. The DEEDS of LOVE
 - (1) If need be, we would lay down our lives for the brethren -- I John 3:16; John 15: 12 - 13
 1. Jesus -- John 3:16
 - (2) When a brother is in need, we share what we have with him -- I John 3:17; Matt. 25: 34 - 40
 - (3) In times of good fortune we rejoice with him -- Rom. 12:15; I Cor. 12:26
 - (4) In times of sorrow we weep with him -- Rom. 12: 15
 1. Jesus -- John 11:35; "Jesus wept" -- Luke 7:11
 - (5) Instead of seeking special honor for ourselves we should seek it for our brethren -- Phil. 2:3; Rom. 12:10; I Cor. 12:26
 - (6) We should be interested in the welfare of our brethren -- Phil. 2:4
 - (7) We should be "kind one to another" -- Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:12; Prov. 31:26
 - (8) We should FORGIVE one another -- Eph. 4: 32; Col. 3:13; Luke 17: 3 - 4
 1. Forgiveness is an attitude of heart which restores the offender to the former state and affections of the offended one.

2. To forgive is to bury the matter and treat it as though it had not been committed.
3. Parable of the unmerciful servant -- Matt. 18: 23 - 35
4. Don't dig it up again if you want God to forgive you -- Mark 11: 25 - 26
5. When God forgive He forgets -- Heb. 10:17

(9) We should FORBEAR one another -- Col. 3:13; Eph. 4:2

1. To forbear is to be longsuffering.
2. Longsuffering is that quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish; it is the opposite of anger, and is associated with mercy.
3. God has forbearance and longsuffering toward us -- Rom. 2:4; II Pet. 3:15

(10) We should follow peace with all men.

1. Heb. 12:14; II Cor. 13:11; Rom. 12:18; Rom. 14:19; I Thess. 5:13; Eph. 4:3
2. *"It is an honour for a man to cease from strife; but every fool will be meddling"*
Prov. 20: 3
3. Peter said a Christian was to *"seek peace, and ensue it"* -- I Pet. 3:11
4. Some are like the man who said, "I'm going home and if my wife does not have a good meal cooked, I'm going to raise the roof; and if she does, I'm not going to eat a bite !"

(11) We should be EASILY ENTREATED -- not stubborn or self-willed

1. James 3:17
2. This is a qualification for an elder -- Tit. 1: 7

(12) We should treat one another with fairness

1. The golden rule demands it -- Matt. 7:12
2. Some people have one rule for you and another for their friends and themselves.