

## Brotherly Love

### Lesson 05 of the series, "Training Camp"

"Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come." 1 Timothy 4:8 (NLT)

#### I. God wants us to live godly lives.

"By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires." 2 Peter 1:3-4 (NLT)

##### a. God promises to give us love for each other.

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."

2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)

"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

##### b. God promises to meet our needs so that we can help each other.

"And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others." 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NLT)

"And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19 (NASB77)

#### II. The more we show brotherly love to each other the more useful to God we become.

"In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins." 2 Peter 1:5-9 (NLT)

"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:34-35 (NLT)

##### a. God wants our love for each other to be authentic / sincere.

"You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart." 1 Peter 1:22 (NLT)

"Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other... When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality... Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!" Romans 12:9-16 (NLT)

"If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions." 1 John 3:17-18 (NLT)

"If someone says, 'I love God,' but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?" 1 John 4:20 (NLT)

b. God wants Christian brothers and sisters to practice sexual purity.

“Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God, as we have taught you. You live this way already, and we encourage you to do so even more. For you remember what we taught you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. God’s will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor— not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways. Never harm or cheat a Christian brother in this matter by violating his wife, for the Lord avenges all such sins, as we have solemnly warned you before. God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives. Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. But we don’t need to write to you about the importance of loving each other, for God himself has taught you to love one another... Then people who are not Christians will respect the way you live...” 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 (NLT)

“Anyone who loves another brother or sister is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble.”

1 John 2:10 (NLT)

c. God wants us to keep on loving each other.

“Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters.” Hebrews 13:1 (NLT)

“And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.” Acts 2:44-47 (NLT)

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## Connect Group Questions

To prepare for this week's meeting, take some time to focus on the following questions and write out a few brief answers. Be prepared to share them with your group.

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching on brotherly love was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
2. Read 1 Timothy 4:8 and 2 Peter 1:3-9. Peter wants Christians to live productive and useful lives. What are the benefits of training physically? What are the benefits of training spiritually? Why do many Christians train physically to keep their bodies in shape but fail to train spiritually to be more useful to God? How can you help the other members of your connect group get in shape and stay in shape spiritually?
3. Discuss the following promises God makes to us so we can live godly lives:
  - God promises to give us love for each other. 2 Timothy 1:7, Galatians 5:22-23.
  - God promises to provide for our needs so we can help each other. 2 Corinthians 9:5-15, Philippians 4:19

How should these promises impact the way we treat other Christians?

4. What do the following Bible passages teach us about brotherly love?
  - Romans 12:10
  - 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
  - Hebrews 13:1
  - 1 Peter 1:22
  - Acts 2:44-47

Make a list of the ways Christians can love each other in these verses. Would you describe your Connect Group as a place where you experience these acts of brotherly love? In what areas can you improve? What attitudes keep us from loving each other?

5. Discuss the following quotations

"Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care." Theodore Roosevelt

"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." Jesus (John 13:35 NLT)

"...if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?" John (1 John 4:20 NLT)

"But we don't need to write to you about the importance of loving each other, for God himself has taught you to love one another... Then people who are not Christians will respect the way you live..." (1 Thessalonians 4:9,12 NLT)

"I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ." — Mahatma Gandhi
6. Pray as a group for opportunities to express brotherly love to other Christians.