

## Change to become a better brother or sister in Christ! — with people who go to church with you

### Intro:

#### → Song: **Blest Be The Tie, verse 1**

- Beth and I, married July 20, 1985 — song, Bless Be The Tie
  - **vs. 1:** Blest be the tie that binds, Our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds, Is like to that above.
- Christians have a common bond — Jesus

#### ➤ → **This lesson:**

- **Title:** Change to become a better brother or sister in Christ! — with people who go to church with you
- **Purpose:** talk about the basic principles of being a brother in Christ, make practical application
  - make the bond of Christ tighter, more effectual

- #1 **We love one another, as Christ loves each of us!**
  - ➔ **Read - Jn. 13:34-35** (Jesus, after inst. LS and predicting Judas' betrayal) love one another, as Jesus loved them, world know they are disciples — *agape* — cf. Judas — evangelistic impact
- ● **Read - Jn. 15:12-14** How has Jesus loved you?
- 3 ● **PP - 1 Jn. 3:16-19** How should we love one another? What is known (of truth, cf. Jn. 14:6)?
  
- ➔ **Read - Rom. 12:9-16** love brethren: love without hypocrisy, be devoted, brotherly love, weep / rejoice, same mind, not haughty, associate with lowly
  - **love (vs. 9) = *agape***: mental commitment to do what is right
  - **brotherly love (vs. 10) = *philadelphia***: affectionate relationship we have with brethren
    - used in **secular Greek** of those who were blood related, kin — physical family love
    - in NT, used of spiritual kinship — spiritual family love
  
- ➔ **secular illus.: love, brotherly love** — as men, we know what it is to love others, be committed
  - **William Manchester**, returned to his unit on Okinawa after receiving a wound that earned him a Purple Heart, describes the psychology of commitment in his book *Goodbye Darkness*:
    - I understand, at last, why **I jumped hospital that Sunday 35 years ago**, and, in violation of orders, **returned to the front and almost certain death**. It was an **act of love**. Those men on the line were my family, my home....They had never let me down, and I couldn't do it to them. **I had to be with them rather than to let them die and me live with the knowledge that I might have saved them**. Men, I now knew, do not fight for flag or country, for the Marine Corps or glory or any other abstraction. **They fight for one another**. (Citation: Jim Collins, "The Power of Catalytic Mechanisms," Harvard Business Review, July-August 1999)
    - **Application: Christians, Lord's army, should fight for one another and the Lord**
  
- ➔ **spiritual illus.: God's love for us**
  - **PP - Jn. 3:16** God's love, commitment to us
    - we should have the same commitment to one another, that God has toward us — love
- ● **rf - 1 Jn. 4:7-11** God loves us, we should love each other
  
- ➔ **What's this mean to you?**
  - God wants you to **treat your brethren, the way He treats you** — love
  - God **gave** Jesus / Jesus **gave** Himself — God wants you to **give** — love brethren

➤ #2 We **serve** one another in the spirit of love, as Christ serves us in heaven!

→ **Story - Jn. 13:5-11** Jesus wash apostles feet, water in basin, wash feet and wipe with towel with which he was girded — “What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter”

- **Read - Jn. 13:12-17** example, service, fig. wash each other’s feet, slave not greater than master, blessed if you do these

- **washing feet one of the most humble acts** of service

- **e.g., preacher**, meeting, sent to see man, finds working outside

- q: you people don’t wash feet

- a: do your feet need washed?

- man converted and become a gospel preacher

- **e.g., woman t-ville**, had gone to church where washed feet, Beth asked if she wanted her feet washed, she washed them in our living room (not as a religious doctrine)

- **Application: Jesus came you serve you, now he wants you to serve others**

- ● **Read - Rom. 15:1-3, 8** Christ a servant: context Rom. 14, illustrating teaching (cf. Rom. 15:7)

- ● **PP - Gal. 5:13** Christians serve through love

→ **Serving others (godly) is an acquired trait — must be learned**

- ● **Read - Eph. 4:11-16** equipping for service (vs. 12), grow (vs. 15), every joint supplies (vs. 16), working of each part (vs. 16), love (vs. 16)

- **illus.: doctor**

- **doc:** go to school to learn, continuing education to improve

- **Christians:** learn to serve others, continuing education, never stop learning, improving

➤ → **One of the hardest lessons to learn (service): putting others first — rf. wash feet**

- **Read - Eph. 5:15-21** context, vs. 21 be subject to one another

- **rf - Eph. 5:22ff** service, subjection, relationships

- **rf - Phil. 2:1-4** unity, same mind and love, united — vs. 5ff have attitude of Christ, humble, service

- **vs. 3** not selfish: not employing factious methods to meet his personal desires

- **vs. 3** not empty conceit: literal meaning is vainglory, not employing factious methods to meet one’s personal desires, motivated by bringing glory upon himself

- **vs. 4** look out for interest of others, not just self: do what is best for the congregation

- **greatest in the kingdom, is servant of all:**

- ● **PP - Matt. 23:11 (Jesus)** greatest is a servant

→ **What’s this mean to you? — Practical Advice, Suggestions, Application:**

- **Thought question:** What are some things you can start doing, to serve your brethren, that you’ve not been doing?

- **Thought question:** Will you train and discipline yourself, to do them?

- #3 **Application: What are some things we can do, to serve our brethren in love?** — suggestions, not new
  - ➔ **Note:** not the same for each person, station in life, abilities and opportunities
    - use these thoughts to think about yourself - What can you do to improve?
  
- ➔ **Be the best Bible student you can be!**
  - **the stronger Christian you become**, the more you can help your brethren
    - **teacher:**
      - **PP - Heb. 5:11-12a** grow to be a teacher — formal and informal (actions and manner of life, verbal instructor of God's word)
    - **counselor and friend:**
      - **PP - 1 Th. 2:13** can use the word to help your brethren with their problems and trials
      - **encourage** with God's word
      - give **godly advise** from God's word (cf. Job's friends, ungodly advise)
      - **instruct** with God's word
  
- ➔ **Attend the assemblies and Bible classes with an attitude of love and service!**
  - **be at church every time it's possible** (here, out of town) — this is where you can do the most for your local brethren, brethren elsewhere when you visit
  - **understand how important your presence is** to everyone else
    - **PP - Heb. 10:24-25** stimulate, *Greet* — everyone here can lift everyone else up with their greeting
      - young, middle age, old
      - esp. those who have the most difficult time getting there
        - e.g., Mamie in Thomasville, wanted to come for long time, wheel chair
        - encouragement to see younger people, present and active
          - e.g., youth and vitality into the atmosphere
    - **understand that everything you do while at church, encourages or discourages** others
      - **every word** spoken, even the manner spoken
      - **every act:** way sit, way walk, what do when sitting in pew, what do during prayers, participation in singing
    - **participate whole heartedly** in the worship and work
      - **Jesus: more blessed to give** than receive — will get more out of assemblies, than you put in
    - **set a goal to never miss**, unless its absolutely impossible to be there - sever illness, death
      - **never let something you can choose not to do** (recreation), interfere with assembling with the saints
      - **e.g., bedridden:** if can't go to church one day, don't have regrets - missed when could have gone there

- → **Sick brethren: have an attitude of love and service toward sick brethren (esp. shut in)!**
    - **What do we do?** — visit, send cards, take over meals
      - **illus.:** **Allan, 15**, broke collar bone, hospital, Gene and Sandy Taylor (preacher, blue jeans) visit in hospital, one thing remember most about my spiritual life at that time
      - **illus.:** **Dawn born**, put in children's hospital, women in Leesburg congregation brought meals that week
    - **call** to encourage those who can't get out
      - **illus.:** **grandmother**, Dad's side, lady from church called everyday (lunch from work?), made her day
    - **run errands, take to the doctor, do house work**
      - things they can't do for themselves
      - **joke:** if anyone has a little extra time this week, I feel a cold coming on
    - **pray:** how much is prayer for your brethren part of your life? — what happened to prayer meetings?
      - **PP - 1 Th. 5:17-18** pray all the time, thanks, God's will for us
      - **illus.:** **Polycarp, pray for his brethren before being burnt alive**
        - martyred Feb. 23, 155
        - Roman police found Polycarp hiding in a farm house, where he gave himself up
        - Polycarp offered them as much food as they could eat, if they would allow him an hour to pray undisturbed
        - they agreed
        - Polycarp prayed for not one, but two hours: *remembering all, high and low, who at any time had come in his way, and the Church throughout the world*
        - Polycarp was taken to the stadium, was given numerous chances to deny Christ, and live
        - Polycarp replied, *"I have served him eighty-six years and in no way has he dealt unjustly with me; so how can I blaspheme my king who saved me?"*
        - burnt alive at the stake, since he refused to deny Christ
        - **Application: If you were about to suffer a horrific death because you refused to deny Christ, would you be thinking about others, to pray for them?**
- → **During week, not at church: have an attitude of love and service for local brethren**
  - outside assembly: take personal responsibility to **encourage every person here**, as many as you can
    - talk to, spend time with, have into your home, visit
  - be **concerned for the souls of your brethren**
    - talk about spiritual things with each other
    - develop close relationship with others so they can seek counsel from you, and you can seek council from them
  - **know who needs some extra encouragement**
    - younger, older, those alone, young couples, those young in the faith
  - be **compassionate to the less fortunate**, financially (esp. the poor)
    - **illus.:** **Tabitha**
      - Jesus: always have the poor with us
    - be benevolent to make someone else's life a little better
      - poor
      - young person trying to get a start in life
      - young family that's struggling
      - the elderly
  - **What do brethren need most? your time**
    - **time management:** without it, we will fail to do the Lord's work
    - **saying:** there is one thing you can give that no one else can give, your time

→ **What's this mean to you? — Practical Advice, Suggestions, Application:**

- **set a goal:** encourage at least one brother or sister in this congregation, you would not have encouraged otherwise
- **think of someone** today, you can encourage and life up
- **saying:** If you won't do it for others, don't expect others to do it for you. — what ever it is
  - **Jesus:** "Blessed are the **merciful**, for they shall **receive mercy**" (Matt. 5:7)"

**Conclusion:**

➤ → **Summary:**

- **Song: Blest Be The Tie (#711, T-ville)**
  - **vs. 1:** Blest be the tie that binds, Our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds, Is like to that above.
    - **Christ**, special relationship we have - special obligation we have for one another
  - **Song:** There is room in the kingdom, there is work we all can do — serve Christ / brethren

➤ → **Just be like Jesus:**

- **Jesus** “but emptied Himself, **taking the form of a bond-servant, . . .**” (Phil. 2:7a) — be like your Lord Jesus, make yourself into a servant - serve your brethren

→ **Inv.:**

- What has Jesus asked you to do?
  - Jn. 8:24; Lk. 13:3, 5; Matt. 10:32-33; Mk. 16:16; Rev. 2:10

Audio sermon notes:

- ➤ denotes where to proceed to the next slide PowerPoint slide.
- All Scriptures are NASB, unless otherwise noted.
- Sermon recorded 8/28/2005, Church of Christ, South Livingston Ave. In Lutz, FL, Allan McNabb, BibleStudyGuide.org.