

Godliness with Respect to Others

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: 2 Peter 1:5-7.

B. Form reasonable expectations when it comes to development of Christian character under the Holy Spirit's guidance.

C. Godliness in this context most likely narrowly refers to God-ward motivation. (2 Peter 1:3, 7)

II. Brotherly kindness is often translated "brotherly love" and refers to our relationships within the body of Christ. (Romans 12:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; Hebrews 13:1; 1 Peter 1:22; 2 Peter 1:7)

A. This kind of love between Christians is based off of the principle of us mutually belonging to each other. (Romans 12:5)

1. Because we belong to each other, we have a vested interest in one another and our treatment of each other flows from mutual belongings. (Romans 12:10, 13, 15)

2. Brotherly kindness displays sincere affection. (1 Peter 1:22)

a) This means that we need to like each other, not just treat each other with loving actions.

III. Love as described in this context comes not from the person being lovable, but from the heart of the lover. (1 John 3:16)

A. This kind of love refers to the love that we have for the whole world- believers, nonbelievers, the unlovable and enemies. (1 Corinthians 13)

1. Love is a necessity, not an option. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

a) Love gives value to our faith, zeal, gifts, courage, etc.

2. Love must be exercised in our every day, ordinary actions. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

3. Love motivates the rest of the qualities discussed in 1 Corinthians 13. (Luke 15)

a) We are dependent on God to teach our hearts love, but we need to ask and study love through the scriptures.

Application questions:

1. How is love that depends on the heart of the lover different from love that depends on the person being lovable?

2. What does it mean that Christians mutually belong to each other? How does this change the motivation behind our Christian acts of kindness?

3. Why is sometimes harder to love the people in our daily lives than strangers? How can we develop genuine affection for those in our daily lives that are difficult to love?
