



LET US GO ON TO PERFECTION (4)

Spiritual Indicators (3) – How Important are My Brethren to Me?

We are addressing some spiritual indicators that help us determine where we are in relation to where we ought to be as Christians. This morning, the importance of our brethren.

I. We ARE the church!

- a. Church used in 2 senses – Universal & Locally, a community of believers in a specific location who join together in an ordered, arranged and organized fashion, to do the work God has given us to do collectively.
- b. The church is NOT a building, but the people who comprise it. Described as: the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:22-33); a kingdom (Colossians 1:13, Philippians 3:20); a temple & priesthood (Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:4-9); living stones in a spiritual building (1 Peter 2:4-9, 1 Corinthians 3:9-11); the body with Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27), etc.
- c. *We are also described as the **household** of God.*
 - i. 1 Timothy 3:15, Galatians 6:10, Mark 10:29-30.
 - ii. **God is our Father and we are His children** – John 1:12, 1 John 3:1.
 - iii. **We are brethren!** 1 Corinthians 1:10, cf. 1 Timothy 5:1-2
 - iv. Our spiritual family helps us deal with rejection (cf. Matthew 10:34-38, 19:29).
 - v. We are a family and we need to ACT LIKE IT!
 - vi. **How well do I understand what it means to be part of my spiritual family? How important is the family of God to me? Am I nurturing this relationship?**

II. We need each other

- a. How did the Christian faith prevail in the face of Roman hostility against Christians? Among the many reasons was how brethren cared for each other.
 - i. *Brethren sacrificed for each other* – Acts 4:32-37; Acts 2:44-46 had all things in common; genuinely cared for each other, and their assembling together.
 - ii. They had examples – *Paul loved the brethren so much* (cf. 2 Corinthians 2:4, 7:12, 11:28). He emboldened them to stand firm (cf. Philippians 1:12-14, 27-28).
 - iii. But the ultimate example of caring was Jesus Himself. See John 15:13-15
- b. Where does one drifting away from God usually begin? Neglecting to prefer one another.
- c. Many passages call for us to be there for each other. 1 Corinthians 1:10, Philippians 2:1-4, Ephesians 4:1-3; "Brotherly love" – Romans 12:10, Hebrews 13:1, 2 Peter 1:7; care for each other – James 2:15-16, 1 John 3:17-18;
- d. One another passages – Found some 64 times in NT.
Love one another – some 20 verses - 1 Peter 4:8, 1 John 4:7, 20, John 13:34-35 - **NOTE that according to this, the world has the right to judge us based upon how we love each other!** Romans 15:7, **Therefore receive one another**; Galatians 5:13, **through love serve one another**; Ephesians 4:2, "**bearing with one another in love**"; Ephesians 4:32, **forgiving one another**; Ephesians 5:21 "**submitting to one another**"; 1 Thessalonians 5:11, **comfort each other and edify one another**; Hebrews 10:24-25, **And let us consider one another, ...exhorting one another**; James 5:16, **Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another**; 1 Peter 4:9, **Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.**
- e. CAN you see in these passages how important God sees that we treat each other properly? In all of this, what is Paul's point? **WE NEED EACH OTHER!**

III. How important are my brethren to me?

- a. Let us honestly ask ourselves some questions!
- b. *Do I care about my spiritual family as I ought to? Do I love my brethren? How well do I know my brethren? How much do they need me? Do I look forward to being with my spiritual family?* Etc.

You cannot objectively read your Bible and miss how important your brethren ought to be.

So, how important is your spiritual family to you?