

Building Up One Another

Lesson 3 • Taken from a Study by Gene Getz

Be devoted to one another (Rom. 12:10)

- One of the more prolific pictures of the local church in the New Testament is that of a “family” ... (brother & sister) ... it’s probably as well known as the “body” metaphor. Here are some examples:
 - Acts 1:15
 - Acts 9:17
 - Romans 8:28-29
 - 1 Cor. 6:5-6
 - 1 Cor. 7:15
 - Gal. 6:10
 - Eph. 2:19
 - 1 Thes. 5:25-27
 - 1 Tim. 5:2

There are other expressions, words and/or phrases used in the New Testament to convey this idea of “family” ... what are they?

As you think of today’s incarnation of the American family, what are the positive attributes of today’s families that you think should also characterize the local church? On the flip side, what are some negative attributes that may cause the members of a local church to misunderstand the “family” picture?

- The picture of the local church being a “family” adds to the “body” metaphor a dimension of _____, tenderness, _____, and loyalty.
 - The picture of God’s redeemed people being a “family” flows from (is anchored in) the fact that God is our _____. (See Rom. 8:14-17)

- Membership in the body speaks of _____; the local church being a family speaks of _____.
- Rom. 12:10 refers to a “devotion” to one another in the local church – it’s a family love that is NOT based on personal _____ or desirability. (MacArthur)
- Literally, 12:10 could be translated “*in your brotherly love for one another, be deeply _____ to one another.*”
- The comparison is a parent’s natural love for a _____. (See 1 Peter 1:22 & 2 Peter 1:5-7)
- There’s a distinct “family” flavor to the Pastoral Epistles, i.e. 1 Timothy.
 - 1:2 & 18
 - 3:2-5 & 14-15
 - 5:1-5 & 16

“Our privileges should stimulate rather than destroy our concern to treat each person in the church with the sensitivity and respect due to that person by reason of his or her gifts, age, sex, leadership status, and personality ... Timothy is not exhorted to treat each person in a manner mechanically identical with every other person, but to take into account the full range of personal factors that go into an intimate family relationship. Each person in God’s household is not an abstract, faceless mask to be treated according to an invariant recipe ...”
(Poythress, www.bible.org)

- What does this look like in our church?

Name a few hindrances at CLBC that prevent or limit this kind of love for one another:

How do we work toward this deep devotion to one another at CLBC?

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