

# LOVE YOUR BROTHER

There has been quite a bit written in the New Testament regarding loving your brother. It is much more involved than people ordinarily would think. For instance, the first passage that might come to mind is the Second Great Commandment:

Matthew 22:39

*“The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

This is difficult for most people and is validated in the book of Philippians, where Paul even goes so far to say we are to prefer one another.

Philippians 2:3

*“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;”*

But let’s look further, in 1 Corinthians 13, for instance:

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

*“Love is patient, love is kind, {and} is not jealous; love does not brag {and} is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong {suffered}, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”*

This seems all encompassing and is a tough standard to live up to, unless of course we are led by the Spirit - who will lead us to love in this way. But this is also a covenant walk and we have to love our brothers as covenant partners, taking our covenant responsibilities seriously. In fact, the Lord states we are to love one another just as He loved each of us (John 15:12). It also means we are to be there and demonstrate our love by meeting their needs and helping them when they are down; if necessary even laying down our life for the brethren (1 John 3:16).

1 John 3:17-18

*“But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?  
Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”*

James 5:19-20

*“My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth, and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.”*