

Lesson 9: Brotherly Kindness (2 Peter 1:7)**What is Brotherly Kindness?**

The Greek term for “brotherly affection/kindness” is *philadelphia*. The root word is *philos*, which can mean “love,” “affection,” and “friend” (3 John 1:15). We will discuss the differences among the different “types” of love mentioned in the Bible; we will see that there are also important similarities (e.g., see Romans 12:9-10). As with the other virtues, brotherly love is repeatedly described as a habit of heart and hand that strive for excellence (e.g., 1 Peter 1:22; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10).

Exercise #1:

If “brotherly kindness” involves being a “friend” (*phil-*) to your “brother/sister” (*-alephia*), then what do the following statements about “friendship” teach us about brotherly kindness?

- John 15:13-15
- Acts 27:3; Luke 11:5-8
- John 3:29
- 1 Cor 6:20

Exercise #2:

As a friendly affection for a brother or sister, brotherly kindness is opposed to other types of love that are directed toward sinful purposes. Read the following passages, identifying the destructive forms of affection, and how brotherly kindness helps us to avoid these tendencies.

- 2 Timothy 3:2; 3 John 1:9
- Hebrews 13:5 ; 1 Timothy 6:10; 1 Tim 3:3
- Colossians 2:8
- 1 Corinthians 11:16

How Brotherly Kindness?

As with the other qualities in 2 Peter 1:5-7, Jesus Christ is the ultimate manifestation of the virtue of brotherly kindness (e.g., Titus 3:4; John 11:3-35).

Exercise #3

In addition to thinking of other events from the Gospels that illustrate the brotherly kindness of Jesus, use the following passages to list and describe virtuous practices of brotherly kindness.

- Philippians 4:8
- Romans 12:10
- Acts 28:2
- Romans 12:13 ; Hebrews 13:1-2; 1 Peter 4:9
- Romans 16:16; 2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:26 ; Titus 3:15; 1 Peter 5:14; 3 John 1:15