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Be Devoted to One Another

by Jesse A. Flowers

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor” (Romans 12:10, NASB).

Romans 12:10 emphasizes the affectionate, humble relationships that should characterize God’s family.

“Be devoted to one another” - Christians should possess sincere, family-like affection for one another. Our relationships should involve loyalty, concern, and commitment - not merely friendliness at worship services.

“In brotherly love” - The Greek word **philadelphia** refers to the love shared within a family. Through Christ, believers are spiritual brothers and sisters who genuinely care for one another.

“Give preference to one another” - Rather than insisting on our own desires, recognition, or convenience, we willingly place the needs and interests of others ahead of ourselves (Philippians 2:3-4).

“In honor” - Christians should actively look for opportunities to appreciate, encourage, and recognize the good qualities and faithful service of others.

Some practical ways that we can fulfill this divine instruction:

- Develop meaningful relationships with fellow Christians beyond the assembly.
- Notice those who may be lonely, discouraged, overlooked, or struggling.
- Speak words that encourage and build others up.
- Rejoice when another Christian receives recognition or succeeds.
- Yield personal preferences when doing so promotes peace and strengthens others.
- Treat every Christian as a valued member of God’s family.

Brotherly kindness is more than friendliness. It is the sincere, loyal, active affection Christians possess for one another because we are members of God’s family.

Credentials

Ron Matthews

The liberation from German control of the strategically important port city of Brest, France was paid for with the blood of many soldiers. U.S. Brigadier General Charles Canham was thus in no mood for diplomacy or deception as he and a few army soldiers entered the German headquarters to demand surrender of his counterpart LTC Bernard Hermann Ramke.

Ramke was stalling for time while his staff secretly sent a wire to Berlin from an adjoining room. He asked General Canham to produce his military credentials as a condition of surrender. Displeased with such a request from a defeated enemy, Canham pointed to the well-armed American soldiers in the room and snapped “these are my credentials.”

By the end of the war, Canham had been awarded every American medal for valor except the Congressional Medal of Honor. He also received awards from France and Britain for his bravery and significant accomplishments. Just weeks prior to the meeting in Brest, Canham had been shot during the Omaha Beach D-Day invasion but refused evacuation to safety.

These events at Brest were soon publicized, and Canham was credited with having paid the highest tribute possible to his soldiers. Canham credited power and authority to his army rather than claiming it for himself. The statement "Soldiers are Our Credentials" is still a creed in the Army today.

Credentials are *evidence to entitlement to rights or privileges*, or anything that provides *the basis for confidence or belief*. (Webster's College Dictionary).

As Christians, how might we respond if asked for our credentials?

We would be correct to answer that our conversation (our manner of life) demonstrates that we are followers of Christ, for Jesus said that if we love him, we will keep His commandments (Jn 14:21, 15:10, Mt 7:21). Outward and inward obedience is evidence of the rights and privilege of discipleship. Claiming to be a Christian while disregarding the Lord's commands amounts to denying Christ's authority.

In a more fundamental sense though, the highest *basis of confidence* we have in being children of God is in the power that made it possible, not our own accomplishments. Obedience is essential but we are Christians first and foremost because of the power that makes it possible. Jesus, the Son of God, defeated the enemy by living a life of perfect obedience, by paying the price of victory with His blood, and by demonstration of His power over death in the resurrection (Acts 2:24).

The apostle Paul stated his own credentials in his preaching "For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified" (1 Cor 2:2). Paul proclaimed the primacy of the power of the gospel (Rom 1:16).

Christ is the supreme evidence to entitlement, rights and privileges Christians claim. Without Him we have no credentials at all. Country Club Road Bulletin Tuscon, AZ

How Happy are you?

- by Tom Wheeler

"Rejoice in the lord always: and again I say rejoice." (Phil. 4:4)

Look at all of the blessing that Christians have. The material blessings are available for everyone and they are without number. We live in a country that is well blessed with material things, freedom, beauty of all kinds - and how long could the list be! Even the air that we breathe, the water that we drink, and the ground that we walk upon are blessing from God. In addition to these things Christians have the forgiveness of sins, fellowship with God and fellow Christians, and the hope of an eternity in the presence of God. God has written to us about the assurance of His love, the blessedness of His hope, and the wonders of salvation. We can, by adhering to His word, bask in the sunshine of His love.

When we look around us and observe fellow Christians, what do we see and hear? There is murmuring and complaining. There is worry about mundane things and things that we cannot do anything about, and we complain about everything in sight.

We must learn to exercise our minds, and learn to separate the good from the evil. God says "rejoice" and we need to be learning how. *The Beacon – Colledgevue Electronic Bulletin 9/1/26*