

Bless Be The Tie

“And truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3). There is a song in our book titled “Blest Be The Tie That Binds” (638). The phrases should have deep meaning for each one of us as a Christian. We are to teach and admonish one another in our songs (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). Listen very carefully to what we are teaching to each other.

Our hearts are tied together in Christin love, our fellowship, our kindred minds are like that above. Is that what we are genuinely striving for (John 17:21; Philippians 2:5)? Before God we pour our ardent prayers, our fears, and our hopes. Our aims are to be one and so are our comforts and our cares. Do we really share with one another as we grow more Christ like (2 Peter 3:18)?

Do we really share our mutual woes, and bear our burdens (Galatians 6:2)? How often for each other flows the sympathizing tear (1 Corinthians 12:25-27)? Do we really believe that when we asunder part it gives us inward pain (Acts 20:36-38)? Do we really hope that we shall be joined in heart and hope to meet again (John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18)?

Jesus gave us a new commandment. We are to love one another as He has loved us (John 13:34-35). Look at the depth of His love for us as He died upon the cross (2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Hebrews 12:2-4). John said that if we love one another we ought to be willing to lay down our life for our brethren (1 John 3:16). Consider how deep is our love for each other in the congregation (1 Corinthians 12:25-27).

We are to take it all to the Lord in prayer (Philippians 4:6-7). Are we looking for ways for us to solve difficulties and problems? Do we really believe that the Lord is there and cares for us, individually and collectively (Ephesians 3:20; Hebrews 4:15-16)? Are we striving to keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight (1 John 3:22)?

Paul sought the prayers of Christians to help him speak as boldly as he knew he should (Ephesians 6:19-20). Paul said that we should be an imitator of him as he imitates Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1). Are we grateful for every thought of our brothers and sisters in Christ (Philippians 1:2-5)? Is it our desire to be kept in the prayers of our spiritual family? Do we share with one another as the early Christians did (Colossians 4:16; 2 Timothy 2:2)?

Do we honestly remember that even in times of differences and hardship that we may have with others, this is also one for whom Christ died (1 Corinthians 8:11)? We are to have a sincere love the brethren (1 Peter 2:17; 22). We are to give preference for one another (Romans 12:10). Are we really tenderhearted for one another (Ephesians 4:32)? Do we really believe that keeping these commandments are not burdensome (1 John 5:3)?

Within each of us that should be a longing to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:6-9). Are we helping each other to have this goal (2 Timothy 4:7-8). Are we striving to be faithful to death (Revelation 2:10)? And we should be longing for this to be true with every brother and sister in Christ.

Notice the conviction that Paul had in the young preacher Timothy. “For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state” (**Philippians 2:20**). Timothy was an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, and in purity (**1 Timothy 4:12**). Indeed, is God being glorified by our life and our love for one another (**Matthew 5:16**)?

Something to think about!

David B. McElwain