

Text: 1 Pt 2.17 et al

Last week we talked about *Discerning the Lord's Body* as we held our communion service.

Since this is our last service with the Gilmartins, I want to continue the theme by talking about the brotherhood.

Likely we will be a bit emotional today, so get the Kleenex ready!

Our passage is in the "submission section" of 1 Peter, and we had a message from it on Nov 28, 2021.

I won't repeat that message today.

Our message today extracts one phrase out of our verse and makes that our meditation for this service.

1 Pt 2.17 Honor all people, **love the brotherhood**, fear God, honor the king.

We emphasize this phrase:

Love the Brotherhood

We have this image of the church we promote around here, as noted last week, the image of a "body."

"The brotherhood" is a good substitute. I noted in my message last Nov that "brotherhood" is Peter's concept of the church.

1 Pt 5.9 But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your **brethren** who are in the world.

Peter is the only one who uses this term.

We are going to think a bit about the brotherhood,

... how we are connected by the brotherhood,

... how it affects us,

... and how we live on in this world, though we can't live with all the brotherhood at once.

I. The brotherhood

A. Defining the term:

“the church across the world understood as those in a kinship relation between brothers and sisters in God’s family.”¹

1. NT usually uses the concrete term “brethren”
2. “Brotherhood” is “the abstract ... used for the concrete”²
 - a. In Israel, there was a brotherhood that kept the national identity intact (and persists to this day)
 - b. In Christ, that relationship goes deeper, not a relationship of blood, but of Spirit

Mt 12.49 And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, “Behold My mother and My brothers!

Heb 2.11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one *Father*; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

B. The unique brotherhood among men

1. All men are created by God, they are “one blood” (Ac 17.26)

Ac 17.26 and He made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation,

Act 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

¹ ἀδελφότης -ητος, ἡ in Rick Brannan, ed., *Lexham Research Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Lexham Research Lexicons (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2020).

² “Brotherhood” in James Orr et al., eds., *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* (Chicago: The Howard-Severance Company, 1915), 525.

2. But when a man is born again, he is “one Spirit” with God and his brethren (Jn 3.3)

Jn 3.3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

II. The love for the brotherhood

- A. The love for Dorcas among the Christians of Joppa (Ac 9.36-39)

Ac 9.36-39 ¶ Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated *in Greek* is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did.³⁷ And it happened at that time that she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her body, they laid it in an upper room.³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, having heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, “Do not delay in coming to us.”³⁹ So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them.

- B. The love of the Ephesian elders for Paul as he is departing them (Ac 20.36-38)

Ac 20.36-38 ¶ When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.³⁷ And they *began* to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him,³⁸ grieving especially over the word which he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they were accompanying him to the ship.

C. The love of the Christians of Caesarea for Paul (Ac 21.10-13)

Ac 21.10-13 As we were staying there for some days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹ And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands, and said, "This is what the Holy Spirit says: 'In this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" ¹² When we had heard this, we as well as the local residents *began* begging him not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³ Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

D. The love of the Christians of Tyre for Paul (Ac 21.3-5)

Ac 21.3-5 When we came in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left, we kept sailing to Syria and landed at Tyre; for there the ship was to unload its cargo. ⁴ After looking up the disciples, we stayed there seven days; and they kept telling Paul through the Spirit not to set foot in Jerusalem. ⁵ When our days there were ended, we left and started on our journey, while they all, with wives and children, escorted us until we *were* out of the city. After kneeling down on the beach and praying, we said farewell to one another.

III. The continuing work of the brotherhood (Ac 21.6)

Ac 21.6 Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home again.

A. The Christians of Tyre came to say farewell at the ship

B. Paul and company departed

C. The Christians of Tyre went back to their work:

1. Preaching the gospel
2. Discipling the converts
3. Living for Christ
4. Waiting for the shout