

GOD'S REST

'LIVING IN HIS PLEASURE'

BY

GOD'S FAMILY UNITY

If we live "in" His pleasure we will live in Family unity. It is impossible to live "in" His pleasure and be isolated from the family, for His pleasure involves His family.

SOME BASIC TRUTHS

HONOR ALL MEN: LOVE THE BROTHERHOOD, FEAR GOD, HONOR THE KING. (1 Peter 2:17)

WHEREFORE, ACCEPT ONE ANOTHER, JUST AS CHRIST ALSO ACCEPTED US TO THE GLORY OF GOD. (Romans 15:17)

WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE PASSED OUT OF DEATH INTO LIFE, BECAUSE WE LOVE THE BRETHREN. HE WHO DOES NOT LOVE ABIDES IN DEATH. BUT WHOEVER HAS THE WORLD'S GOODS, AND BEHOLDS HIS BROTHER IN NEED AND CLOSSES 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. (1 John 3:15,17,18)

FAMILY UNITY IS ACHIEVED BY RECEIVING AND LOVING IN DEED AND TRUTH THE FOLLOWING FAMILY MEMBERS

(While it is true we are all brothers and sisters in the Lord, it does not mean that we are all equal. The Bible recognizes different members of the family and tells us how to love in deed and truth.)

BROTHERS/SISTERS

(This family member is the one most like us in maturity, outlook, interest, etc. We have no problem here getting along - this is the easiest member of the family to get along with. However, due to close fellowship, dangers come - hurts, judging others, etc.)

And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, "let me take the speck out of your eye," and behold, the log is in your own eye? (Matt. 7:3,4)

Therefore let us not judge one another any more, but rather determine this - not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way. (Romans 14:13)

If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. (Matt. 5:23,24)

Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. Let not Him who eats regard with contempt him who does not eat, and let him who does not eat judge him who eats, for God has accepted him.

Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand. For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.

So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another. (Romans 14:1,3,4,7,8,10,13,19)

(A secret to God pleasing unity is RECEPTION and LOVE that is marked by graciousness. A danger that divides is the judgment of others, that rejects them, rather than discernment that helps them.)

UNRULY BROTHER

This family member is in a rebellious state against the Father and other members of the family. This rebellion can be expressed in many ways - disobedience, withdrawal, hostility, indifference to family, etc. Here are God's commands.

I Thessalonians 5:14; II Thessalonians 3:6,14,15; James 5:19,20; Galatians 6:1,2

And we urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all men.

Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.

And if anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that man and do not associate with him, so that he may be put to shame. And yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

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 ways will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.

Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, looking to yourselves, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.

(A secret to God pleasing unity is the RECEPTION and LOVE of those who are disobedient, by the willingness to warn and restore to fellowship. A danger that divides is indifference to those who have wandered away, or a revengeful attitude that says, "they got into this mess, serves them right.")