

March 19, 2023

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

John 3:10b-24

“Social Test #2: “We’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love” – Part 5

- I. Prologue [Introduction] – 1:1-4
- II. Tests of Genuine Fellowship: Cycle (Spiral) #1 – 1:5-2:27 – [Moral; Social; Doctrinal tests]
- III. **Tests of Genuine Fellowship: Cycle (Spiral) #2 – 2:28-4:6**
 - A. The Moral Test – 2:28-3:10 – Family Resemblance
 - B. **The Social Test – 3:10b-24 – Family Resemblance**
 - 1. Obvious Family Resemblance (10b-12)
 - 2. Shocking Family Resemblance (13-16)
 - 3. Practical Family Resemblance (17-18)
 - 4. **Confident Family Resemblance (19-22)**
 - a. **Persuading (19-20)**

b. _____ (21-22a)

c. _____ (22b)

So what?

Discussion & Application:

1. Share specific examples of false guilt with your group. What is the source of that false guilt? How do you know when guilt is coming from the Lord and from a conscience that is sensitive to Him?
2. What have you done this past week to train your conscience (heart) toward righteousness? What helps you the most when you experience false guilt? How do you persuade your heart that you truly are a child of God? What evidence from your lifestyle helps the most? Share with your group how you preach the gospel to yourself each day.
3. What does a guilty heart do to your **prayer life**? How does your prayer life change when your conscience is clear, and you are confident everything is right with God? What does Heb. 4:12-16 say about coming before God's throne with confidence? What makes that possible?
4. Does **verse 22** obligate God to give us everything we ask for? Why would God choose NOT to give us what we ask for? What are the prerequisites John gives for answered prayer? How does living that way impact the kinds of things we ask for in prayer?
5. What comes to your mind when you think of living in such a way that God is **pleased**? (See also John 4:34; 8:28-29; 2 Cor. 5:9-10; Heb. 13:20-21) Are there any areas of your life right now where God is not pleased? Choose to repent, confess, and enjoy God's gracious forgiveness and assurance.
6. Here are some of the practical ways members of TBBF gave Pastor Paul to love fellow believers. **Pick one or more of them to put into practice this week:**

Take someone shopping or to a doctor appointment; Pick up groceries and prepare meals for those who are homebound, sick, had a baby; Coordinate meals & house cleaning for people in need; Call people to see how they are doing and pray over the phone; Write cards of encouragement (email, texts); Give someone a ride to church who doesn't drive or have a car; Help someone with their pets; Open your home and regularly invite people over to get to know them better; Provide a room in your home for someone who needs a place to stay; Meet financial needs; Remind people of our Benevolence Fund. Encourage them to ask for help; Carry envelopes with cash so you are ready to meet a need when you hear of one; Be an accountability partner for prayer, counsel, and encouragement; Read the Bible to someone who can't do it themselves, or set them up with an audio Bible so they can listen regularly; Help with home repairs, yardwork, chores around the house (especially for seniors); Wash someone's car; Help people move; Invite people to join your family for the holidays; Plan a special event for Singles in the church; Spend time with those who are sick and dying; Be willing to serve in a leadership position; Call people you haven't seen recently and encourage them; Offer to go with someone to Grief Share; Listen to people twice as much as you speak. Help bear their burdens so they don't feel alone; Provide wise counsel or direct people in need to our Biblical Counseling Ministry; If you can't meet a need, connect people with someone who can; Faithfully pray when prayer requests are sent out. Call (email, text) the person to let them know you are praying and are available to help; Be sensitive and compassionate toward those who are jobless or homeless; Serve in Children's or Youth Ministry; Babysit; Encourage ministry leaders; Offer to assistant or take over a specific ministry from those who have too many areas of responsibility; Ask the Lord how He wants you to lovingly serve others each day; Prepare before meeting with fellow believers so you can stimulate them to love and good deeds; Tell people how you have seen them grow in Christ and/or how God is using them in the lives of others; Memorize Scripture and share it with others. Encourage them to do the same; Meet the needs of missionaries; Use your spiritual gifts to build up fellow believers.

7. **Memorize 1 John 3:19-22.**

[Answers to blank: *Praying; Pleasing*]