

Brotherly Affection & Love

We've been exploring **2 Peter 1** and what we've called "**God's Vitamin Cabinet.**" This evening, we add the final two "supplements" to our list:



His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to _____ and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to _____ your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with _____, and brotherly affection with _____. (2 Pet 1:3-7)

Let's start with **brotherly affection**, a prescription for Christians highlighted throughout Peter's letters:

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly _____, love one another earnestly from a pure heart... (1 Pet 1:22)

Finally, _____ of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. (1 Pet 3:8)

_____ all, keep loving one another earnestly... (1 Pet 4:8)



Why would Peter be so clear in prescribing and emphasizing this "supplement"? He was there when Jesus told his earliest followers, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love _____: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will _____ that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35). In fact, this is what it all "depends" upon, right?

"You shall love _____ your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love _____ as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." (Matt 22:37-40)

Brotherly affection and **love**: absolutely essential supplements to our spiritual growth. **Let's talk about them...**

For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ **Brotherly affection.** What sort of things go through your mind when you hear those God-breathed words?

- ▶ There must be a difference between “brotherly affection” and “love” (which we’ll talk more about in a moment. What do you think? What’s the difference between the two?

- ▶ Throughout this study, we’ve been trying to carefully think through the logical order of these “supplements” in **2 Peter 1**. Why would the Holy Spirit call us to supplement “godliness with brotherly affection” (**2 Pet 1:7**)?

- ▶ The call in **1 Peter 4:8** sounds urgent and insistent. How would you paraphrase what the Holy Spirit is prescribing for Christians?

- ▶ Let’s not overlook or gloss over the importance of what Jesus said in **John 13:35**. Why is this “supplement” absolutely indispensable in our walk of discipleship?

- ▶ Digging a little deeper, let’s notice and discuss what comes after the list of “supplements” in **2 Peter 1:5-7**. What do you make of **1:8**? What is being communicated?

- ▶ And what about **2 Peter 1:9**? Is it a big deal if I “lack these qualities”? If so, why? What practical impact does that deficiency have on my life?

- ▶ Finally, what can I do, day by day, to “practice these qualities” (**2 Pet 1:10**)? Will it be worth the effort?