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**Brother  
Brotherly Love  
and  
Unity**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

# Brother, Brotherly Love and Unity.

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## Topics.

- The biblical meaning of the word brother.
  - Brotherly love and unity.
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## THE BIBICAL MEANING OF THE WORD BROTHER

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The word brother (brethren in KJV) (*Hebrew 'ach*), literally means a brother, but in its widest sense embraces anyone who has an affinity or resemblance with each other, (i.e., of the same kindred, nation or the same faith, religion, and worldview etc.). Brothers (brethren in KJV) (*Greek adelphos*), literally refers to a brother from the womb, but it also embraces the same as Hebrew 'ach, previously mentioned.

During the early ancient generations and the period of the Roman Empire and the age of the New Testament women (especially those who had authority) were referred to as brothers. The Jewish nation viewed a Jewish man or woman as a brother. This is because it was an ancient expression that signified a person belonged to the same nation, the same family, the same faith, or the same group of people etc. During these eras (especially the Roman and New Testament era) the word, brothers was not used to differentiate between male and females (especially in the Scriptures of the Bible), unless the context specifically states it. Brothers is a perfect expression for those in Christ since, brotherly love is love that protects, defends, guards and shelters, and is free from any romantic or sexual thought.

Even though some amongst the Jewish nation may not have been friends, they viewed a Jewish man or woman as a brother regardless of their belief or whether they were female or male. Though the word brothers embraced anyone of a kindred spirit, either as belonging to the same family, the same nation, or the same faith, it did not always mean that the people are united in friendship. An example of this is seen in Paul writings; in his letter to the Galatians, he refers to false teachers as brothers, not because he is one with them in spirit or friendship (obviously), but because they belong to his nation Israel. Which means a brother in Bible language can be an enemy to Christ or a friend depending on the context.

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## BROTHERLY LOVE AND UNITY

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- David wrote:
- **Psalm 133:1-3:** Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! <sup>2</sup> It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! <sup>3</sup> It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

When brothers and sisters dwell in unity the Kingdom of God is fruitful in good works which manifests the fruit of the Spirit and is proof of being in union with God and with Christ. Unity adorns the Gospel and brings numerous blessings as the drops of dew bring life to the grass of the

earth. Believers that live in love and peace will have the God of love and peace with them now, and with them forever in the new world to come of endless love, peace, and happiness. Paul and Peter pick up on the same theme of unity, in the following verses:

- I (Paul) therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace ----NOW GO TO VERSE TWELVE ---- <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. (Ephes. 4:1-3).
- Peter says:
- Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. (1 Peter 3:8).

The anointing oil descending from Aaron's head to the beard down to the collar and skirts of the garment is a picture of the entire person being covered in the sweet fragrance of the anointing oil and can be seen to symbolise brotherly love in a Christian community that is so overflowing and abundant that it spreads over the entire spiritual body, the church with the same sweet and holy influence, represented by the oil of anointing pervading all and combining all in one. One of the most beautiful things God delights in is when he sees His people dwelling in unity. It is a wonderful testimony to the name of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, the church, and the Spirit of God dwelling in His people, added to these it is the best collective testimony that can be presented to the unsaved world of the wonder and beauty of God's steadfast love and grace.

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**There the Lord has commanded the blessing:** (Psalm 133:3), since the context this verse is in, is, "How good it is when brothers dwell in unity," the place that the LORD has commanded the blessing" refers to any place where there is brotherly unity flowing amongst those who love God and faithfully follow the Lord Jesus Christ. All who dwell in brotherly love will not only inherit the commanded blessing of eternal life and everlasting happiness (which is the greatest blessing of all), but also inherit all other promises God has made to His people and the blessings of the Gospel which are promised to all the faithful and will come to them through faith in the promised Messiah, the Christ the Son of God and Saviour of the world with special reward to who live in unity, love, and peace.

Paul wrote:

- Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. (2 Cor. 13:11).

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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