

The Duties and Privileges of Church Membership (4)

**The Duty and Privilege of Building a Loving Community**

*“No one has seen God at any time...”*

**1. God IS Love**

- 1) God’s Love toward Himself
- 2) God’s Love toward Us

**2. Our Motivation**

- 1) Look at what God has done
- 2) Look at what we do
  - Worship
  - Edify
  - Evangelise

**3. The Mark of the Christian**

- 1) Distinguishing Love
- 2) Discerning Love
  - Loving our enemies
  - Loving the children of God
  - Loving the children of God in our own church

**4. Love in Deed and in Truth**

- 1) The “deeds” love puts off
  - To put on love, we must put away .....
  - To put on love, we must put away .....
  - To put on love, we must put away .....
- 2) The “deeds” love puts on
  - To put on love, is to put on .....
  - To put on love, is to put on .....
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**PURPOSE & PRIORITIES**

**Our** purpose as a local church is to actively work to glorify God’s name and expand His kingdom in Brisbane’s north and beyond, with the Bible as our guide and final authority.

**We** will do this together

- *By* worshipping God publicly with all our hearts;
- *By* making a priority of corporate prayer;
- *By* building a loving community where we encourage and equip one another
  - to walk by faith,
  - to resist temptation,
  - to renew our minds
  - and to live holy lives;
- *By* actively sharing the gospel with fellow sinners – seeking their new birth and growth to maturity in Christ.

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*The Fruit of the Spirit is Love...*

**Joy** is Love exulting, and **Peace** is Love at rest.  
**Patience**, Love enduring in every trial and test.  
**Gentleness**, Love yielding to all that is not sin.  
**Goodness**, Love in actions that flow from Christ within;  
**Faith** is Love’s eyes opened the living Christ to see,  
**Meekness**, Love not fighting but bowed at Calvary.  
**Temperance**, Love in harness and under Christ’s control,  
*For Christ is Love, in person—and Love, Christ in the soul.”*

## A Practical Summary for Promoting Brotherly Love

1. Be utterly convinced that the promotion of brotherly love is an **essential act of obedience** to the command of the Lord.
2. View ourselves as children of God who have been placed by the Lord **in a family**, the local church, and charged to contribute to its peace, and promote its interests.
3. Strive to make the local church a holy, beautiful and **harmonious fellowship**, fit to be the dwelling-place of Christ, by His Spirit.
4. Believe that Christ requires us to worship, learn and serve Him **in a corporate way**, as one body in Christ, and not to function in an independent manner, which is the sin of pride.
5. Submit to the obligation to have the same **forgiving attitude** to our spiritual brothers and sisters, that Christ has so graciously shown to us.
6. Let it be our sincere aim to suppress self-love in all its evil aspects in order to cultivate **unselfish**, outgoing interest, affection and support for our fellow-believers.
7. Make every effort to **express affection** and regard to others, both in warm greetings and friendliness, and in deeds of helpfulness and kindness.
8. Also engage in **regular intercession** for our fellow believers — for their spiritual and physical blessing — and do so in an intelligent way, taking account of their ever-changing situations.
9. Ensure that we remain **approachable** by others, always at their disposal as members of the same family.
10. Suppress gossip and evil-speaking, and keep unviolated that priceless bond which God has set between us, always keeping up respect, and **protecting one another's reputation**.
11. Be sensitive to the great responsibility which is upon us to keep ourselves **pure in the matter of example**, so that we shall not be judged for infecting the church with unbrotherly, unfaithful and corrupt relational attitudes.
12. Drive away from our minds **jealousy, envy, bitterness, evil suspicions**, and all other attitudes which cause us to disparage fellow-believers without proper cause.
13. Be **impartial** in all our relationships, and always try to 'cast the net' of **hospitality and friendship** to an ever-widening circle of people, and to different kinds of people, and not restrict our friendship to a few.
14. Never abuse the local church fellowship by taking mean advantage of its affection, kindness and resources, and offering no **sacrifice of service** or care in our turn.
15. **Support as a matter of duty Christian service activities** organised by our church, which both bring glory to God, and which also promote fellowship, for these people are our people, and their God is our God, and to serve and fellowship with them is a leading duty and delight.

Peter Masters *"The Goal of Brotherly Love"*