

Welcome friends to another broadcast of "Morsels for Zion's Poor"

GOD has ordained and set forth that all of HIS children should be in a vital relationship not only with himself but also with one another. HE prayed for them in the garden that the FATHER might give them unity, *"I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me."* In keeping with this thought HE described how the rest of the world would recognize them as HIS disciples as HE taught them how they should regard one another. *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."*

Our religious flesh quite often tries to modify that teaching because it is much easier to adopt other means of identification than the one HE gave. Surely, HE meant that the world would know HIS people because they were sound in doctrine, or mighty in word and deed, or faithful, or perhaps by their prosperity in the midst of want, or that they had spiritual gifts to demonstrate HIS power. The flesh says, surely we can substitute something else for having love one to the other, because there is nothing more contrary to our flesh than the simple love and esteem of our brethren above ourselves. There can be no imitation of true love. It can always be seen for what it is. *"Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."*

The psalmist of old said, *"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"* What the Psalmist observed has been set forth by the LORD in the establishment of HIS body in the earth. This is demonstrated as the LORD gathers men together in local churches for this purpose, *"the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."* Just as the human body is made up of many parts, so also is the church. If one part is lacking or injured then the whole body suffers. The health and nourishment of the body depends on every part of the body working for the mutual aid of the whole. *"And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God."* All of their spiritual health comes from the HEAD but HE is pleased to minister it to HIS children through the various parts (joints and bands) of the body.

So the truth of the matter is: the saints are their brother's keeper, not just to see that he does not fall prey to deceivers and false prophets but also that they are careful by their actions to set forth a proper example and to do nothing which may cause him to stumble. This is the exact message that Peter gave to the elders, *"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock."*

Paul wrote to the Corinthian church about the exercise of Christian liberty. Now we are quite sure that all things are lawful unto the sons of GOD but not all things are useful for the edification of the brethren. Though I might have freedom of conscience to partake of something others consider forbidden, my love for the brethren should cause me to examine my conduct to see if it is in any way harmful to those whom the LORD loves with an everlasting love. This particular instance that Paul is addressing to the Corinthians had to do with the eating of meat which was sacrificed to idols. Paul plainly indicates that the purpose for which the meat was used had no bearing on its suitability for consumption as food. The LORD said, *"There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man."* Those whom Paul called the weaker brethren were still making a connection in their own mind between eating the meat sacrificed to idols and worshipping those idols. So that in their ignorance they would consider that it was acceptable to worship those idols and thus should be caused to stumble in this matter and be overcome with confusion and idolatry. It behooves those who are strong in the LORD to consider these weaker brethren as we conduct ourselves in the world. *"Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend."* Do you love the brethren?

"Thy free grace alone,"#11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net**