



The purpose of this column is to help you study the Bible on your own. Look up the Bible references and think about them before writing your answers. Do not send this study to us, as this is not a correspondence course.

One Another

OF THE NEW TESTAMENT – PART 2

by Ray Miller

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.”

Romans 12:10 NASB

Part 1 presented foundational truths using the analogy of the human body (1 Cor. 12:12-27) to illustrate the interdependence of each member of the body of Christ. Believers are vitally important “members one of another.” The body analogy emphasizes every member’s participation.

Paul also uses another analogy, the family unit, to illustrate how the functioning church engages in specific activities to grow spiritually and to bring glory to God. The family concept gives us an even greater understanding of what a well-functioning church body should be. This family aspect adds a dimension of warmth, concern, care and loyalty – the emotional and devotional side.

1. The term “brotherly love” (Greek: *philadelphia*) in Romans 12:10 refers to the love that should exist between brothers and sisters within the family unit. The word “brothers” (*adelphos*) means “from the same womb,” hence, “fellow believers,” or “brothers and sisters in Christ.” How do the following verses clarify the family aspect of the body of Christ?

Ephesians 3:14-15 _____

Ephesians 1:5 _____

1 John 3:10 _____

1 John 4:20-21 _____

2. To “be devoted” refers to the mutual love of parents and children, and husbands and wives. It could also be translated as, “show loving affection,” “love tenderly” or “be kindly affectioned.” The body of Christ is a unique unit, with members devoted to one another as a close-knit family. How do the following verses characterize a “close-knit” family of God?

Philippians 2:3-4 _____

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 _____

3. Showing love to “one another” as brothers and sisters in Christ does not come easily. It requires prayerful and serious commitment to the exhortations in God’s Word. Read the following verses and list their admonitions toward becoming a loving member of the family of God. Notice the specific references to “brotherly love” and “love as brothers.”

Hebrews 13:1-3 _____

1 Peter 1:22-23 _____

1 Peter 3:8-9 _____

2 Peter 1:5-7 _____

4. Evaluate your attitudes and actions toward others in God’s family. How have you shown love toward them? _____

5. Expressing love in tangible ways is necessary to strengthen true feelings. How will you begin showing affection to others in God’s family – especially those you have trouble with? _____

Next month we’ll look at the “one another” in Romans 15:5.