

To Love the Lord Thy God - Spiritually, part 21 quotes

1 The Emotion of Love Dealing With Fellow Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Even though there is no blood relationship, yet through connection with Jesus Christ there is a strong and lasting bond of family union attaching true Christians with one another.

“For we are members of his [Jesus Christ’s] body, of his flesh, and of his bones....For we are members one of another.” Ephesians 5:30, 4:25.

“So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.” Romans 12:5.

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many....But now are they many members, yet but one body....Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.” 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 20, 27.

2 This strong family bond and union between all those who have accepted Jesus Christ and are in Him is likened in the Scriptures in two different ways.

First Example - The strong bond of attachment in one flesh between a husband and a wife.

“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish....For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.” Ephesians 5:23-27, 31-32.

Jesus Christ is the husband of His wife, and His wife represents His church which is composed of all who have joined themselves to Him. All church members are closely connected and related with one another in this body of Christ, just as a wife is closely connected and related as one flesh with her husband. Therefore are all equal with each other irregardless of race, nationality, color, cast, age or even gender.

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:27-28.

3 Second Example - The strong family bond of union in family relationship with children.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.” Ephesians 1:3-6.

“And [I] will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” 2 Corinthians 6:18.

“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:26.

4 “For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister”. Matthew 12:50.

“Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace”. 2 Thessalonians 2:16.

“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Colossians 1:1-2.

“John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;...I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ”. Revelation 1:4, 9.

“I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cencrea: That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.” Romans 16:1-2.

Through Jesus Christ we are all inter-related as brothers and sisters, because we are all the children of the Most High and members of His royal family, and thus fellow heirs of glory and everlasting life.

“I [God] have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.” Psalms 82:6.

“[We are all] fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his [God’s] promise in Christ by the gospel...[and in] the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord”. Ephesians 3:6, 9-11.

5 Just how soon does this close family relationship begin among true Christians?

“And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, **Brother Saul**, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.” Acts 9:10-20.

These verses reveal that as soon as Saul accepted Jesus Christ as His Lord and Saviour, he immediately became a child of God, a brother to Christ, and thus a brother to all other Christians, and this close relationship began before Paul had boldly preached Christ to others! Direct connection with Christ was the key to this relationship! But this close attachment to God our Father and fellowship with one another only remains legitimate as long as we remain in Christ Jesus.

“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” 1 John 1:3-7.

6 Our Elder Brother Jesus Christ commands us to show unselfish love to 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.” John 13:34-35.

“As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love....This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends....These things I command you, that ye love one another.” John 15:9-10, 12-13, 17.

7 By showing true unselfish Christ-like love for each other member of Christ's body, then we are actually showing our love for Christ, as well as our love for God as our mutual Father -- who gives us the ability to “live, and move, and have our being” and thus to show love in the first place (Acts 17:28)!

“And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” Matthew 25:40.

8 Not showing true Christ-like love for each of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ reveals that we do not love Christ or God our Father!

“Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.” Matthew 25:45.

Refusing to love one or more of our fellow brothers and sisters in the faith as Christ loves us, means that we are directly breaking the explicit command of Jesus, and are actually showing that we hate Him and them! And this hatred will directly lead us into a course of betrayal!

“And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end [in keeping God and Christ's commandments in loving Them and each other], the same shall be saved.” Matthew 24:10-13.

What is another name for one who betrays his own family members?

“And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him [Jesus] unto them. And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him....and Judas Iscariot, which also was **the traitor**.” Mark 14:10-11, Luke 6:16.

9 In betraying and turning traitor against your fellow Christians and thus against Christ and God, would make you become one of the greatest enemies to your own brothers and sisters, to your own Lord and Husband Jesus Christ, and to your own Father - the Almighty! This great sin would show that you are in direct sympathy and league with Lucifer, who was the first great betrayer and traitor of his heavenly family! And you will even find yourself willing to work in harmony with those whom you know are servants of Lucifer in order to more fully manifest your hatred towards your one time fellow brothers and sisters, and thus the holy and infinite Godhead as well, in your desperate efforts to exalt yourself as supreme over them! And thus your destiny will be fixed for time and for eternity in the lake of fire!

“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.” Hebrews 6:4-8.

“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Hebrews 10:26-31.

There will be nothing you can do to avoid being eternally destroyed, no matter how many clever and carefully hidden agreements you might make with Lucifer himself or with any other fallen agents of his!

“Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD...Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place. And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it. From the time that it goeth forth it shall take you: for morning by morning shall it pass over, by day and by night: and it shall be a vexation only to understand the report. For the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it: and the covering narrower than that he can wrap himself in it [or in other words, there is nowhere to hide]. For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act [of a God of love actually destroying the majority of His own creation that turned traitor against Him and His Son].” Isaiah 28:15-21.

“...the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming...because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” 2 Thessalonians 2:8, 10-12.

10 "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love....If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us....and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him....If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also." 1 John 4:7-8, 12, 16, 20-21.

11 Loving all of your fellow brothers and sisters in the faith as Christ has loved you, will indeed show your love for Jesus and your Father, and you will indeed be saved!

“Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand [who had done His will], Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”. Matthew 25:34.

But not loving one or more of your fellow brothers and sisters in the faith as Christ has loved you, will indeed show your hatred for your Saviour and God your Father, and you will indeed be lost!

“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand [who refused to go His will], Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels...And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.” Matthew 25:41, 46.