

# Study QUESTIONS

## Ep. 1426: What Does Brotherly Kindness Mean for a Christian? (Christian Character Series Part VIII)

See:  CQ Rewind  
SHOW NOTES

<https://christianquestions.com/character/1426-brotherly-kindness-part-viii/>

*God has granted everything needed for life and godliness through His promises. These promises form the foundation of Christian character. Our response is allegiance—loyal commitment to God's will. 2 Peter 1:5-7 is used throughout the questions.*

**Overarching Question:** Why does the Apostle Peter place brotherly kindness after godliness, perseverance, self-control, knowledge, moral excellence and faith in the “ladder” of Christian character development?

1. How does Scripture show love expanding from family affection to brotherly kindness to love for strangers and all humanity? How does each circle prepare you for the next? (Titus 2:3-4, Romans 12:10, Hebrews 13:1-3, as described at the end of the Rewind)
2. How did Jesus teach the principle of “*philadelphia*” in Matthew 6:9-13 without using the word? Why was this such a radical idea at the time of Jesus? (Romans 12:10-11)
3. When you encounter a struggling brother or sister, what rises up first in you—compassion, avoidance, frustration, or criticism? And when you're in a group and the conversation turns toward gossip or negative talk about someone, how do you respond? Do you instinctively protect their reputation the way you would a family member?
4. What would it take for brotherly kindness to become your natural, instinctive response rather than something you have to consciously work at? Which habits, perspectives, or spiritual practices help move it from effort to reflex?
5. What does it look like to “excel still more” in brotherly love, as described in 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11? How does this kind of love show up in everyday life, and why are its expressions often quiet, subtle and unnoticed by others?
6. How do you respond when someone else receives a blessing you longed for—does jealousy rise up, or can you genuinely rejoice with them? Do you intentionally seek fellowship with believers you wouldn't naturally gravitate toward? And when others disappoint you, do you respond with the compassion, patience, and “brotherly love” described in 1 Peter 3:8-9?
7. How do Hebrews 13:1-2, 1 Thessalonians 4:10, and Romans 12:10 portray the power of brotherly kindness? What active, practical expressions of this love do these passages call us to—both toward fellow Christians and toward strangers?
8. How does brotherly love challenge your natural tendencies? Do you find it inconvenient at times? What is one specific but practical action you can take this week to build up someone who is on your heart right now?
9. Why is brotherly kindness the next quality after godliness? What does this kind of love prepare us for?