

BE THE FAMILY OF GOD

1 PETER 1:22-2:3 (ESV)

I. The first and most _____ fruit that God intends to bear in the life of a Christian is _____ brotherly love.

A. God intends the local church to be the loving family that many have _____ had— and that everyone _____.

B. Unhypocritical love creates a _____ where we can be _____ with our joys and sorrows, our gratitude and our needs, expecting love in return.

1. God intends the local church to become our _____ community and support system alongside the Christian _____.

2. True brotherly love seeks one another's _____, in the way that _____ would.

II. Brotherly love thrives in a church that _____ the _____.

A. The Gospel that justifies us by faith...

1. _____ our spiritual growth and

2. Pushes us _____ in our growth.

B. When we view ourselves and one another through the lens of the Gospel...

1. We _____ each other to be _____...

2. While we hope, pray, and labor for our mutual _____ in Christ.

III. Brotherly love also thrives in a church that _____ against _____ sin.

Five sins that are particularly damaging to local churches:

- A. Malice: _____ or not wanting what's best for another.
- B. Deceit: failing to speak the truth in _____.
- C. Hypocrisy: failing to be _____ about our sin, our hurts, and our whole selves.
- D. Envy: wanting for yourself what God has given to another Christian to _____.
- E. Backbiting: speaking _____ of other Christians behind their back.

How does the Gospel address each of these sins?

- F. Malice: recognize the _____ forgiven you by God—and see how _____ others' debts are toward you / Matthew 18:21-35.
- G. Deceit and hypocrisy: because the Gospel has united as family, we need to be particularly cautious of our _____ and our _____ / Ephesians 4:25-27.
- H. Envy: recognize that you have a problem of _____ for God's provision and recognize the all-sufficiency of _____ Christ / Philippians 4:10-13.
- I. Backbiting: not only has Jesus _____ us not only to go to one another if we have a problem, but we should speak only what _____ / Matthew 18:15-20; Ephesians 4:29.