

Brotherly Love | Proverbs 17:17

The past several weeks, we've been focused on "Love".

† **Proverbs 17:17** - A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

A friend loves in every circumstance.

And because a friend loves always – a brother is being prepared.

Prepared for what?

Hard times. A trial. A struggle.

We all have gone through a difficult season.

But when we look back, we can see a special friend who stood by us during that time of difficulty.

A friend we laughed with – a friend we cried with.

A friend we learned from.

A friend we had grown to love.

It's those difficult times – the adversity – that makes us appreciate a friend even more.

And so, in the good times, a friend is being prepared to become a brother (or family – if you will) during the difficult seasons we may go through.

You will appreciate a good friend once you've seen that they have stood with you through a storm!

When your heart was broken – you'll appreciate that one friend was there.

When you lost your job – you'll be thankful that one friend was there.

When it seems like everyone has abandoned you – but you recall that one friend who stuck around.

A friend who stood loving you through those valleys becomes more than just a friend – they became family.



How can we be family & exercise “Brotherly Love”?

1. BE LOYAL

† **Hebrews 13:1** - Let brotherly love continue.

Circumstance may get difficult – but hang in there – someone is counting on you.

2. BE A FRIEND

† **Proverbs 18:24** - A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Just as JESUS sticks by us – stick with those we love when times get tough.

3. BE DEPENDABLE

† **Matthew 5:41** - And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

Doing more than has been asked – will give momentum, strength & encouragement.

4. BE THE EXAMPLE

† **John 13:35** - By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

If we are going to “Love GOD Love People” – this includes exercising “Brother Love”.

