



# The Twelve Step Program of Brotherly Love

1John 3:14-20

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- “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. 15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. 19 And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. 20 For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.”

# I Am Not Perfect And There Are No Perfect Congregations

- Rev. 2:4-5, 14 - “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.”
- Phil. 3:13 - “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead”

# I Will Focus On The Good In My Brothers In Christ

- Titus 1:15 - “To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.”
- Phil. 2:29 - “Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem”
- 1Thes. 5:14 - “Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.”

## I Will Focus On The Good In My Brothers In Christ

- John 13:34-35 - “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

I Will Treat The Young How I Wanted To Be Treated When I Was Younger And I Will Treat The Aged The Way I Want To Be Treated As I Get Older

- Matt. 22:39 - "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
- 1Cor. 16:10 - "Now if Timothy comes, see that he may be with you without fear; for he does the work of the Lord, as I also do."
- 1Tim. 4:12 - "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

## When I Am Tempted To Criticize Others, I Will Pray For Them First

- Matt. 7:3-5 - "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, Let me remove the speck from your eye; and look, a plank is in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

## When I Am Tempted To Criticize Others, I Will Pray For Them First

- Psalm 51:9-13 - "Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. 13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You."

# When I Am Tempted To Criticize Others, I Will Pray For Them First

- Matt. 5:43-45 - "You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."
- 1Peter 3:8-12 - "Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; 9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing."

I Will Not Complain About What Needs To Be Done; Instead,  
I Will Do The Work Myself Or Help Someone Else Do It

- Ecc. 9:10 - “Whatever your hand finds to do,  
do it with your might”

# I Will Not Blame My Failures Or Weaknesses On Others

- Gen. 3:12-13 - “Then the man said, The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate. 13 And the LORD God said to the woman, What is this you have done? The woman said, The serpent deceived me, and I ate”
- Gen. 16:5 - “Then Sarai said to Abram, My wrong be upon you! I gave my maid into your embrace; and when she saw that she had conceived, I became despised in her eyes. The LORD judge between you and me.”

# I Will Not Blame My Failures Or Weaknesses On Others

- Esau blamed his brother for losing his birthright - Gen. 25:29-34, 27:36
- Saul blamed the people for not obeying God's command - 1Sam. 15:20-21
- Pilate blamed the death of Jesus on the Jews even though He had the power to free Him - Matt. 27:24-25

# I Will Not Blame My Failures Or Weaknesses On Others

- Ez. 18:19-21 - “Yet you say, Why should the son not bear the guilt of the father? Because the son has done what is lawful and right, and has kept all My statutes and observed them, he shall surely live. 20 The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself. 21 But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die.”
- Ez. 33:8 - “When I say to the wicked, O wicked man, you shall surely die! and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.”

I Will Accept That The Best Way I Can Improve The World Or The Congregation Is To Begin With Me

- 2Cor. 13:5 - "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? -- unless indeed you are disqualified."
- 1Cor. 9:27 - "But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."

## I Will Accept That The Best Way I Can Improve The World Or The Congregation Is To Begin With Me

- Acts 19:13-17 - “Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches. 14 Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you? 16 Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17 This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.”

# I Will Be A Student Of God's Word Daily

- Job 23:12 - "I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food."
- Psalm 19:9-10 - "The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."
- 1Peter 2:2 - "As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby"

## I Will Increase My Circle Of Friends In This Congregation And Do Something For Each Of Them

- Prov. 18:24 - “A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”
- Heb. 6:10 - “For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”
- Matt. 20:28 - “Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many”
- Phil. 2:1-3 - “Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”
- James 4:6 - “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble”

## I Will Remember To Ask Myself Whether I Am Part Of The Problem Or Part Of The Solution

- James 4:17 - "Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin."
- Rev. 2:14 - "But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality."
- Rom. 14:19, 21 - "Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another... 21 It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak."

## I Will See In My Brother What God Sees In Him

- 1Sam. 2:8 - “He raises the poor from the dust And lifts the beggar from the ash heap, To set them among princes And make them inherit the throne of glory. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, And He has set the world upon them.”
- Rom. 5:8 - “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

# I Will View My Brothers Well-Being As Important As My Own

- Phil. 2:4-8 - “Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

# I Will View My Brothers Well-Being As Important As My Own

- Prov. 17:17 - "A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity."
- Rom. 15:1-2 - "We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification"
- 1Cor. 10:24 - " Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being."

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- “Blessed is the servant who loves his brother as much when he is sick and useless as when he is well and can be of service to him. And blessed is he who loves his brother as well when he is far off as when he is by his side, and who would say nothing behind his back he might not, in love, say before his face.” (Francis of Assisi)
- “I sought my soul, but my soul I could not see. I sought my God, but my God eluded me. I sought my brother and I found all three.” (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

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- Psalm 133:1 - “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!”
- John 15:12-13 - “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.”
- Rom. 12:9-10 - “Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another”

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- 1Thes. 4:9 - “But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another”
- 1Peter 3:8-9 - “Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; 9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.”