

“Brotherly Love”

Obadiah 10-16

Introduction

- I. Brotherly love is a vital part of the Christian's life (1 John 3:10-16).
- II. By using the book of Obadiah, we will study the subject from three points.
 - A. What constitutes “brethren”?
 - B. What compassion should we have for our “brethren”?
 - C. What condemnation should we not have for our “brethren”?

Discussion

- I. What constitutes “brethren”?
 - A. It is important to state that the idea of “brethren” is slightly different in the Old Testament than the New Testament (Rom. 15:4).
 - B. By studying the Old Testament, we are able to learn from the relationship between the Israelites and the Edomites.
 1. From the start, the Israelites and Edomites were closely related (Gen. 25:19-28).
 - a. Both nations started from two young boys.
 - b. The Edomites were the descendants of Esau (Gen. 25:25, 29-30).
 - c. The Israelites were the descendants of Jacob/Israel (Gen. 25:26; 32:28).
 2. Not only were Jacob and Esau blood “brethren”, but their descendants were considered such as well (Deut. 2:4).
 - C. Obadiah was correct to refer to the nation of Edom as brothers to the nation of Israel (Obadiah 10).
 - D. Today, the idea of “brethren” is the connection that each Christian has in the body/the church (Heb. 8:6-13; 11:16; Matt. 12:46-50; Col. 1:2; 2 Cor. 11:26; Gal. 2:4).
- II. What compassion should we have for our “brethren”?
 - A. The account of Jacob and Esau teaches us how that we should care for our “brethren”.
 1. Jacob had treated his brother Esau despicably (Gen. 25:29-34; 27:1-42).
 2. Still, after time, Esau calmed and showed love toward his brother (Gen. 33:1-9).
 - B. The New Testament also has many examples of brotherly love.
 1. Jesus (Heb. 12:2).
 2. Paul (2 Cor. 11:24-28).
 3. All Christians (1 John 3:16; John 15:13).
- III. What condemnation should we not have for our “brethren”?
 - A. This where the book of Obadiah is so important to this study.
 - B. Unfortunately, the Edomites did not mirror the love that their ancestral father, Esau did (Num. 20:14-21; Obadiah 10-16; see also Amos 1:6, 9; Ezek. 35:5, 15).
 - C. “Brethren” can choose to forsake brotherly love (2 Tim. 4:10; 1 John 3:15).

Conclusion

- I. Brotherly love is not a small matter.
- II. We should strive hard to nurture and promote a love for our “brethren”.