

Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more.

In 1 Peter 1:22 Peter says: "Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart."

And in Hebrews 13:1 the writer says, "Keep on loving each other as brothers."

This concept of brotherly love stresses a commonality of interests, a sharing of a relationship. Brotherly love is built on the unity that already exists between all believers. It is expressed in mutual recognition of and devotion to brothers and sisters in Christ, as members of God's spiritual family.

G. The seventh quality in Peter's list that we are to add to our faith is love – AGAPE love.

In verse 7 Peter says, "and to brotherly kindness, love."

This is AGAPE love, a sacrificial self-giving that expresses a fervent desire for the highest well-being of another. Our great role model for this kind of love is our Lord.

Our obligation to love one another is expressed in a number of places. But how is this love to be expressed? Thank God, we are not left to define love for ourselves, but are given guidance and parameters within which love is to be manifested.

In Romans 13:8-10 love is expressed by doing good, not evil, to fellow human beings.

In Romans 14:14 AGAPE love is expressed by building up fellow believers, not tearing them down.

In 1 Peter 4:8 and Colossians 3:12-14 love is expressed by overlooking or forgiving faults in others, rather than by pointing out every flaw in them.

In Galatians 5:13-14 and John 13:13-15 love is expressed by serving others instead of lording it over them.

In John 15:12-13 and 1 John 3:16-18 AGAPE love is expressed by giving our lives and our possessions for the brethren, rather than by clutching our