

Strengthening Relationships

Romans 12:9-13

Franklin Church of Christ
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Introduction:

- A. Every congregation has the potential ...
 - 1. To share the gospel with a lost and dying world. **Matt. 28:18-20**
 - 2. To equip the body (by teaching) for the work of service. **Eph. 4:11ff**
 - 3. To shine in the selflessness of hospitality.
- B. Thanks to God, we have a reputation for hospitality. Cp. **Acts 6**
 - 1. We have brethren who care for family/brethren in need...regularly.
 - 2. Who invite/host the spiritual needs of lost souls.
 - 3. Still, there is something to be said of brethren who often spend time together.

Discussion:

- I. Spending More Time With One Another
 - A. Brethren who typically spend more time with one another:
 - 1. Are more active in the overall work of the Lord.
 - 2. Are more edified among the saints.
 - 3. Are less likely to turn away from the Lord.
- II. Problems and Difficulties We've Created
 - A. We live busy lives coupled with ever increasing distances.
 - B. Lack of desire.
 - C. Unrealistic expectations. cp. **3 Jn. 5-8**
 - 1. Failing comparisons. **1 Cor. 12:4-7**
 - 2. A spotless home.
- III. Making An Effort
 - A. The challenge between now and Dec. 31st.
 - 1. Have or visit at least one family monthly over for a meal (potluck?) or simply visiting.
 - 2. Spread your hosting/visits out to people of differing ages, interests, etc. cp. **3 Jn. 5-8**
 - 3. For the shy among us...make a sacrificial effort to have one person/family over between now and the end of the year.
- IV. None of this Matters ...
 - A. If there is no desire.
 - B. If there is no effort.
 - C. If practiced from ulterior motives.
 - 1. Those who have people over but expect to be had over: it doesn't work that way.
 - 2. Do it to build up your brethren and refine your love for one another.

Conclusion:

- A. Sharing in each other's lives may seem trivial to some and overwhelming to others.
- B. It cannot be denied however, that the more time we spend sharing in each other's lives, the closer we become to each other and the desire to serve the Lord together.