

## The Productive and Effective Life Part 7: Brotherly Kindness

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **The Effective and Productive Life: 8 Biblical Steps to Reaching Your Full Potential.**
- **2 Peter 1:3-12**
- What are the promises in these verses?
  - o Does this happen automatically? Make every effort – **verse 5**
  - o And it is good to be reminded of these things even if you know them!!
  - o Persevere in paying attention. Here is where progress really gets made!
- **This Week: Brotherly Kindness**
- Today we cover a very neglected part of Christianity: brotherly kindness.
  - o This is love for your fellow Christian.
- Basically: “Who is us?” and “How do we treat us?”
  - o Who is us? Believers in Jesus.
    - Which believers in Jesus? (compare to “who is my neighbor?”)
  - o How do we treat us? Love. (person to person, church to church, denomination to denomination)
- **John 13:34-35**
  - o “as I have loved you” shows godliness as a prerequisite.
  - o How has Jesus loved us?
    - Are you capable of that? If not, go back to faith and work from there!
      - Means you give more than you take.
      - Means you forgive easily.
      - Means you don’t judge but you pull for them.
      - Means you actually care.
  - o If we can’t do this we have a problem.
- **Romans 12:10**
  - o I’m not sure why, but this seems more attainable than John 13. ☺
  - o When you read the Scriptures with an eye for loving “us” you notice things.
    - Ex: **James 2:14-17** from last week. This is love each other!
  - o This is a big deal, but often just simply missed.
    - “Personal relationship” problem.
    - “Defending the true faith” problem.
- **1 Corinthians 12:30-13:13**
  - o (Note: 1 Cor 13 comes between 1 Cor 12 and 1 Cor 14!)
  - o Which is more important: the things you can do for God’s Kingdom or the heart you have for God’s people?
  - o What would it be like to live in a community of faith like that? (**v4-6**)
    - If we can do this, it is profound evangelism! (Model Home)
    - “It takes a village” problem. Pastor can’t do this alone!
      - If you want to reap (and even if you don’t!!) sow some seed!!
    - Maslow vs Rat Park (**Maybe Maslow Slide**)??
    - “Social Club” problem. Want this love but don’t want faith, goodness, etc. We need to be brothers and sisters in the Lord.
      - But hey, this is where softball fits in! Etc.
- **John 13:34**
  - o Again, how has God loved you?
    - Freely receive of the love of God!
  - o Freely you have received, freely give!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!