

## We Are Brethren

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When Abraham and his nephew, Lot, had to separate because their flocks were too numerous to pasture together, Abraham said: "Let there be no strife ... between me and you ... for we are brethren" (Genesis 13:8). Abraham recognized that there is certain proper behavior that is expected among brethren. What are some things that we need to be doing because we, as Christians, are brethren?

Let us **LOVE ONE ANOTHER**. We are to be tenderly affectionate to one another (Romans 12:10).

Let us **UNITE ONE WITH ANOTHER**. We are to refuse to be puffed up against one another (1 Corinthians 4:6).

Let us **LIVE IN PEACE ONE WITH ANOTHER**. We are to live in peace (2 Corinthians 13:11) and follow after things which make for peace (Romans 14:19).

Let us **KNOW ONE ANOTHER**. We are to know the elders (1 Thessalonians 5:12) and all our brethren.

Let us **STRENGTHEN ONE ANOTHER**. We are to exhort, admonish, encourage, and support one another (1 Thessalonians 5:14).

We are brethren! Let us act properly one toward another, for our sakes and for the world who is watching. - *Chris Reeves*

## Sentence Sermons

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- All that it takes for evil to triumph, is for good men to do nothing.
- If absence really makes the heart grow fonder, then some people must really love the church.
- Remember, girls, the boy that is attracted by your cosmetics alone, is not worth attracting.
- With the right attitude, stumbling-stones of life can be turned into stepping-stones.

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## THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# What Are You Thinking?

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What do you think on each day? What occupies your mind? This is an important question to consider because what we think upon affects how we act. Our actions follow our thinking. Our conduct is shaped by our thinking (Proverbs 4:23). Jesus also said that several bad things a person does begins in the heart (Mark 7:21).

Our thoughts need to be acceptable to God (Psalm 19:14). Paul also wrote that we are to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).

We all have our mind set on something. What is your mind set on? Let's take a closer look at some of the words that Paul wrote in Philippians 4:8:

*“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”*

## Whatsoever Things Are...

“True” (Greek *alethees*) = according to truth; not a lie, not false, not deceit (Romans 3:4; Philippians 1:27; 1 John 2:27). We must think on words,

actions, and thoughts that correspond to the truth of God's word (John 14:6; 17:17); things true to self, others, and to God.

“Honorable” (Greek *semnos*) = grave, serious, dignified, venerable, respectful, reverent, noble (1 Timothy 2:2; 3:4, 8, 11; Titus 2:2, 7). We must think on things that match the serious nature of God and Christian conduct (Philippians 1:27).

“Just” (Greek *dikaos*) = dealing rightly with others; fair, equitable conduct. We must think about how to rightly and fairly treat others (Colossians 4:1).

“Pure” (Greek *hognos*) = chaste, morally clean, and unstained by evil (2 Corinthians 11:2; 1 Jn. 3:3). We must think about what is morally clean and keep ourselves pure in thought and deed (1 Thessalonians 5:22). We must have no uncleanness in our thought and life (Ephesians 5:3).

“Lovely” (Greek *prospheiles*) = pleasing, agreeable, amiable, attractive, endearing. This word is not talking about physical beauty, but an attractive character. We must think about the words and actions that will make us attractive to others (the LXX uses this word in Esther 5:2 concerning Esther's character before the king).

“Good report” (Greek *eupheemos*) = fair-speaking, speaking well of; commend-

able, admirable; not evil-speaking or defamation. We must think about how to speak well of others before we speak to them.

## If There Be Any...

“Virtue” (Greek *arete*) = moral excellence; noble character; goodness. We must think about how to have excellent character based upon the principles of God's word (1 Peter 2:9; 2 Peter 1:3, 5).

“Praise” (Greek *epainos*) = honor, praise-worthy. We must think about what it takes to be honored and praised by God (Romans 2:29; Philippians 1:11; 1 Peter 1:7).

## Think On These Things

Paul's words here are an imperative (a command). “Think” refers to careful reflection and consideration, not just a passing thought (literally, “keep on thinking about these things”).

We are responsible to God, not just for our actions, but also for our thoughts. We are supposed to hold our thoughts to the high and holy virtues laid down in this verse. Friend, what are you thinking? - *Chris Reeves*