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**Lesson Two: How Should Brothers Behave Towards Each Other?**

**Introduction.** In our previous lesson we saw that those who have obeyed the gospel (whether related by flesh and blood or not) become brothers and sisters to each other. To understand how this applies to our treatment of one another let us consider how Scripture characterizes the way brothers should treat one another.

**I. Concern for a Brother.**

A. Attitudes Towards Life Conditions.

1. For what does the wise man say a brother is born (Proverbs 17:17)?

 What does this mean?

2. What does the psalmist say a brother does when a brother is sick (Psalm 35:11-14)?

 What does this indicate about his mindset?

3. Explain the concept of “redeeming” one’s brother (Leviticus 25:25-27).

 Can a brother do this for a brother in death (Psalm 49:5-9)?

 What does this reveal about the expected attitude of a brother toward a brother?

4. What was an Israelite forbidden to take from his “poor” brother (Leviticus 25:35-37)?

 The New Testament doesn’t restate this teaching, but what principles might relate to Christians?

B. Attitudes Towards Sin and Error.

1. What attitude is forbidden within the heart toward a brother (Leviticus 19:17)?

 If a brother has wronged his brother, what is commanded?

 How does God view a brother that does not do this?

2. If a brother or sister turned to sin and idolatry, was family loyalty to overlook sin (Deuteronomy 13:6-9)?

 What were they to do to their own relative?

 The Law of Christ does not teach capital punishment for apostasy but how might this relate to situations in which our family turns to sin?

**II. Cooperation with a Brother.**

A. Speaking About a Brother.

1. List two things that are considered “wicked” to do to one’s brother (Psalm 50:16-21):

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2. What was to happen to one who testified falsely about a brother (Deuteronomy 19:15-20)?

B. Getting Along with a Brother.

1. What does the wise man say a brother does (Proverbs 18:24)?

 Who might be the one who does this more than a brother?

2. How does the psalmist describe brethren dwelling “together in unity” (Psalm 133:1-3)?

 In a fleshly family what would “unity” involve?

3. How does God feel about one who “sows discord” between brethren (Proverbs 6:16-19)?

 Could a brother or sister be guilty of this? How?

4. Explain what this passage says about an “offended brother” (Proverbs 18:19).

 Is this the way it ought to be?

**Discussion:**

* What are some general tendencies we have seen about how a brother treats a brother?
* What kind of treatment is forbidden?
* What kinds of things in these principles do (or do not apply) to spiritual relationships?
* Do these characteristics match the concept of how brothers should treat brothers as the world sees it? As your family sees it?