

Brothers at Karns

I John 4:20-21

“It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly...who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who have never known neither victory nor defeat.” (Theodore Roosevelt)

Stephen Ambrose, author of, *Band of Brothers*, wrote in, *To America*, that he first thought our success in WWII was due to our superior manufacturing productivity. Upon additional reflection, however, he decided the victory actually happened for other reasons. He later concluded that an “optimism of ignorance” and a sense of belonging to a team of trusted brothers were the keys to success.

A Christ-Owned Brotherhood

- ◆ Self assured of whom we belong to and who we are (Phil. 2:2; II Cor. 8:5; I Cor. 2:2; 4:10).
- ◆ The Two Great Commandments (Matt. 22:36-40).
- ◆ “Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown: Jesus we know, and He is on the throne” (*Peace, Perfect Peace* by Edward H. Bickersteth).

Observations

- ◆ Brotherhood is bigger than I am.
- ◆ Yet, I am a needed, important part.
- ◆ Family talks and acts like family.
- ◆ Brothers honor sisters.
- ◆ Family members defer to one another for the overall good of the family.
- ◆ Trust and respect are needed.

- ♦ Intimacy is not an inappropriate word for brothers relating to brothers.
- ♦ We need to approach others to solve problems rather than ignore significant difficulties.
- ♦ We need to be “glue” to hold things together.
- ♦ Increased closeness will generate more outreach and more positive influence.

Commitments

- ♦ Working together at the building and at homes.
- ♦ Sharing in our homes.
- ♦ Special times for prayer and praise.
- ♦ Brag about our family!
- ♦ More conscious of brotherhood in our conversations and our deeds.