

HOW TO: Become Genuine Brothers

I have a genuine brother in the Lord, the only one who I know is a real brother. He was my principal at the Christian School I was teaching at, but I knew him before then because we attended the same church organisation in Canberra.

I reconnected with him recently because I had retired from teaching and so had he. When I met him again, we gave each other a huge hug and were thoroughly pleased to see each other. Now the interesting thing about that is that we had disagreements when he was my principal, but it made no difference to us now. I was an Executive teacher back then and was wanting a number of certain things implemented in the school, but he rejected these ideas (as was his prerogative as the principal). I surrendered unwillingly to his vetos and it caused some friction between us. However, that was past and we are still brothers.

When I met him again a third time last week he was talking to another person, but he motioned to me to come over and join them. We put our arms around each other's shoulders and he proceeded to tell the other person nice things about me. There was no evidence of the friction we had 7 years ago – we were still genuine brothers.

As I pondered this reunion in the light of John Kingsley Alleys lecture at the Apostolic Summit in South Africa this year¹, where he outlined our King's desire for us to become an apostolic people, I suddenly realised why our relationship is so special. What I realised was that we had given ourselves to each other, without reservation, just like a man and a woman give themselves to each other when they get married.

Christians have tried for centuries to love each other and to be in unity, but it has been a complete failure, overall. In our Kingdom Community, we have introduced the paradigm that we are members of Father's family, so we need to see ourselves as family when we are together. In this way we are learning to want to be together and to enjoy being together for the sake of our interaction. Unfortunately, we haven't yet seen a manifestation of the brotherliness and the unity that the NT describes.

I believe that **giving ourselves to each other without reservation is the key to unity and the brotherhood of believers.**

Genuinely giving ourselves means that we are able to handle the differences between us and we don't let these things separate us. So we come into unity then, not because our doctrines are the same, but because we are real brothers/sisters. That makes the difference.

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