

What Is A Brother In Christ?

by Bill Crews

(All quotations are from the American Standard Version)

1. **Another child of your Father in heaven.** In nearly all of his epistles Paul spoke of “*God, our Father*” ([Romans 1:7](#); [1 Corinthians 1:3](#); [2 Corinthians 1:2](#); [Galatians 1:4](#); [Ephesians 1:2](#); [Philippians 1:2](#); [Colossians 1:2](#); [1 Thessalonians 1:2](#); [2 Thessalonians 1:2](#); [1 Timothy 1:2](#); [Philemon 3](#)), and thus acknowledged these brethren as children of his Father in heaven.
2. **A brother to your Lord.** “*And say to them, I ascend unto my Father and your Father*” ([John 20:17](#)). “*For both he that sanctifieth (Christ, BC) and they that are sanctified (the saved, BC) are all of one (the Father); for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren*” ([Hebrews 2:11](#)).
3. **A brother for whom Christ died.** “*For through thy knowledge he that is weak perisheth, the brother for whose sake Christ died*” ([1 Corinthians 8:11](#)).
4. **Someone who is so related to Christ that if you assist in time of need, you will be also ministering to Christ.** “*And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me*” ([Matthew 25:40](#)).
5. **Someone who is so related to Christ that if you sin against him or her, you also sin against Christ.** “*And thus, sinning against the brethren, and wounding their conscience when it is weak, ye sin against Christ*” ([1 Corinthians 8:12](#)).
6. **Someone you love and who loves you to the extent that men are convinced that you are disciples of Christ.** “*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love for one another*” ([John 13:35](#)).
7. **Someone you love with a love that is abounding.** “*We are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren, even as it is meet, for that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the love of each one of you all toward one another aboundeth*” ([2 Thessalonians 1:3](#)).
8. **Someone you are willing to lay down your life for.** “*Hereby know ye love, because he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren*” ([1 John 3:16](#)).
9. **Someone for whom you would forego any personal liberty lest you cause him or her to violate his or her conscience and sin.** “*Wherefore, if meat causeth my brother to stumble, I will eat no flesh for evermore, that I cause not my brother to stumble*” ([1 Corinthians 8:13](#)).
10. **One you should rejoice with when he is honored and suffer with when he suffers.** “*And whether one member suffereth, all the members suffer with it; or one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it*” ([1 Corinthians 12:26](#)).

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