

# **The Twelve Step Program of Brotherly Love**

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. 1John 3:14-20

B. "Hi, I'm Paul, and I hate my brother." Hi Paul. "It's been two weeks since I shut up my heart against him..."

## **I. I AM NOT PERFECT AND THERE ARE NO PERFECT CONGREGATIONS**

A. Rev. 2:4-5, 14; Phil. 3:13

## **II. I WILL FOCUS ON THE GOOD IN MY BROTHERS IN CHRIST**

A. Titus 1:15; Phil. 2:29; 1Thes. 5:14; John 13:34-35

## **III. I WILL TREAT THE YOUNG HOW I WANTED TO BE TREATED WHEN I WAS YOUNGER AND I WILL TREAT THE AGED THE WAY I WANT TO BE TREATED AS I GET OLDER**

A. Matt. 22:39; 1Cor. 16:10; 1Tim. 4:12

## **IV. WHEN I AM TEMPTED TO CRITICIZE OTHERS, I WILL PRAY FOR THEM FIRST**

A. Matt. 7:3-5; Psalm 51:9-13; Matt. 5:43-45; 1Peter 3:8-12

## **V. I WILL NOT COMPLAIN ABOUT WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE; INSTEAD, I WILL DO THE WORK MYSELF OR HELP SOMEONE ELSE DO IT**

A. Ecc. 9:10

## **VI. I WILL NOT BLAME MY FAILURES OR WEAKNESSES ON OTHERS**

A. Gen. 3:12-13, 16:5; Ex. 32:22-24

B. Esau blamed his brother for losing his birthright - Gen. 25:29-34, 27:36

C. Saul blamed the people for not obeying God's command - 1Sam. 15:20-21

D. Pilate blamed the death of Jesus on the Jews even though He had the power to free Him - Matt. 27:24-25

E. Ez. 18:19-21, 33:8

## **VII. I WILL ACCEPT THAT THE BEST WAY I CAN IMPROVE THE WORLD OR THE CONGREGATION IS TO BEGIN WITH ME**

A. 2Cor. 13:5; Acts 19:13-17; 1Cor. 9:27

## **VIII. I WILL BE A STUDENT OF GOD'S WORD DAILY**

A. Job 23:12; Psalm 19:9-10; 1Peter 2:2

## **IX. I WILL INCREASE MY CIRCLE OF FRIENDS IN THIS CONGREGATION AND DO SOMETHING FOR EACH OF THEM**

A. Prov. 18:24; Heb. 6:10; Matt. 20:28; Phil. 2:1-3; James 4:6

**X. I WILL REMEMBER TO ASK MYSELF WHETHER I AM PART OF THE PROBLEM OR PART OF THE SOLUTION**

A. James 4:17; Rev. 2:14; Rom. 14:19, 21

**XI. I WILL SEE IN MY BROTHER WHAT GOD SEES IN HIM**

A. 1Sam. 2:8; Rom. 5:8

**XII. I WILL VIEW MY BROTHERS WELL-BEING AS IMPORTANT AS MY OWN**

A. Phil. 2:4-8; Prov. 17:17; Rom. 15:1-2; 1Cor. 10:24

**Conclusion:**

A. "Blessed is the servant who loves his brother as much when he is sick and useless as when he is well and can be of service to him. And blessed is he who loves his brother as well when he is far off as when he is by his side, and who would say nothing behind his back he might not, in love, say before his face." (Francis of Assisi)

B. "I sought my soul, but my soul I could not see. I sought my God, but my God eluded me. I sought my brother and I found all three." (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

C. Psalm 133:1; John 15:12-13; Rom. 12:9-10; 1Thes. 4:9; 1Peter 3:8-9