



BROTHERS KEEPER

GENESIS 4:9-10

PROVERBS 17:17 (ESV)

A friend loves at all times,
and a brother is born for adversity.





GEN 4:3-9 (NLT)

³ When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the LORD. ⁴ Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, ⁵ but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.



GEN 4:3-9 (NLT)

⁶ “Why are you so angry?” the LORD asked Cain. “Why do you look so dejected? ⁷ You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.”

⁸ One day Cain suggested to his brother, “Let’s go out into the fields.” And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him.



GEN 4:3-9 (NLT)

⁹ Afterward the LORD asked Cain, “Where is your brother? Where is Abel?”

“I don’t know,” Cain responded. “Am I my brother’s guardian?”

AM I MY BROTHERS KEEPER?



- In other words are we responsible to look after our neighbours as we seek to earn our daily bread?

1 JOHN 4:20-21 (ESV)



²⁰ If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.



PHILEMON (NLT)

Greetings from Paul

¹ This letter is from Paul, a prisoner for preaching the Good News about Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy.

I am writing to Philemon, our beloved co-worker, ² and to our sister Apphia, and to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church that meets in your house.

³ May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.



PHILEMON (NLT)

Paul's Thanksgiving and Prayer

⁴ I always thank my God when I pray for you, Philemon, ⁵ because I keep hearing about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God's people. ⁶ And I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ. ⁷ Your love has given me much joy and comfort, my brother, for your kindness has often refreshed the hearts of God's people.



PHILEMON (NLT)

Paul's Appeal for Onesimus

⁸ That is why I am boldly asking a favour of you. I could demand it in the name of Christ because it is the right thing for you to do. ⁹ But because of our love, I prefer simply to ask you. Consider this as a request from me—Paul, an old man and now also a prisoner for the sake of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I appeal to you to show kindness to my child, Onesimus. I became his father in the faith while here in prison. ¹¹ Onesimus hasn't been of much use to you in the past, but now he is very useful to both of us. ¹² I am sending him back to you, and with him comes my own heart.



PHILEMON (NLT)

¹³ I wanted to keep him here with me while I am in these chains for preaching the Good News, and he would have helped me on your behalf. ¹⁴ But I didn't want to do anything without your consent. I wanted you to help because you were willing, not because you were forced. ¹⁵ It seems you lost Onesimus for a little while so that you could have him back forever. ¹⁶ He is no longer like a slave to you. He is more than a slave, for he is a beloved brother, especially to me. Now he will mean much more to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.

PHILEMON (NLT)



¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to me. ¹⁹ I, PAUL, WRITE THIS WITH MY OWN HAND: I WILL REPAY IT. AND I WON'T MENTION THAT YOU OWE ME YOUR VERY SOUL!

PHILEMON (NLT)



²⁰ Yes, my brother, please do me this favour for the Lord's sake. Give me this encouragement in Christ.

²¹ I am confident as I write this letter that you will do what I ask and even more! ²² One more thing—please prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that God will answer your prayers and let me return to you soon.

PHILEMON (NLT)



Paul's Final Greetings

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings. ²⁴ So do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my co-workers.

²⁵ May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

AM I MY BROTHERS KEEPER?



- In other words are we responsible to look after our neighbours as we seek to earn our daily bread?!-Paul
- The standard in the church should be visibly higher than in the world- the Love we have 4 each other
- We are not called to Systematic victimising of our neighbours
- Miracle in acts

SHARING IS CARING



And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.

-Acts 2:44 (NLT)

All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.

-Acts 4:32 (NLT)

2 SAMUEL 1:26 (NLT)

How I weep for you, my brother Jonathan!
Oh, how much I loved you!
And your love for me was deep,
deeper than the love of women!



ROMANS 14:15-21 (ESV)

¹⁵ For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. ¹⁶ So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. ¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. ¹⁹ So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. ²⁰ Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. ²¹ It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.

1 CORINTHIANS 8:9-13 (ESV)

⁹ But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹ And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹² Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

PSALM 133:1 (ESV)

Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity



JOHN 13:35 (NLT)

Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.



CONCLUSION OF PHILEMON

- Love fully
- Kindness refreshes God's people
- Forgive even where you are wronged (Onesimus)
- Be your brothers keeper
- Keep hope even when in chains (lockdown)



3 CONCERNS

1. Stay full
2. Stay away
3. Stay focused



BE WISE- STAY FULL

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning
Keep me burning till the break of day





ISA 8:11-17 (NLT)

¹¹ The LORD has given me a strong warning not to think like everyone else does. He said, ¹² “Don’t call everything a conspiracy, like they do, and don’t live in dread of what frightens them. ¹³ Make the LORD of Heaven’s Armies holy in your life. He is the one you should fear. He is the one who should make you tremble. ¹⁴ He will keep you safe. But to Israel and Judah he will be a stone that makes people stumble, a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare.

ISA 8:11-17 NLT



¹⁵ Many will stumble and fall, never to rise again. They will be snared and captured.” ¹⁶ Preserve the teaching of God; entrust his instructions to those who follow me. ¹⁷ I will wait for the LORD, who has turned away from the descendants of Jacob. I will put my hope in him.

THE GREAT AWAKENING (REVIVAL) CHALLENGE

- a means to an end...
- Revival is not the end
- The wedding day vs. the marriage dilution

