The Brethren (1st Peter 1:22)

Tony Mauck

INTRODUCTION

- You will not have the right attitudes toward the Lord's people just because we sing a few good songs tonight about it.
- Your souls are purified unto a sincere love of the brethren. Therefore, we are to fervently love one another from the heart.
- Let there be no strife between us, for we are brothers. Among brothers is no place for strife.

1 The Problem: We Had a Sinful Past

Romans 6; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Colossians 3

- What's the problem with me? You see, the problem is, we had a sinful past.
- While there are common struggles, there are unique struggles.
- Don't allow any of these struggles to derail your conviction and your faith and your confidence in the Lord. We can recover from the struggles.
- I write these things, John says that you may not sin, but if any man sins, we have an advocate with the Father.

2 Disappointment With Your Brethren Is Inevitable

- Disappointment where your brethren are concerned is inevitable. Because the Lord's people are not without their flaws.
- If I somehow lose it spiritually, that is not an indication that these things are not true and should not be lived and followed.
- I am not the standard. The elders are not the standard.
- Don't allow a brother's or sister's misdeeds to derail your faith and goodness.

3 All of Us Are Dependent Upon Jesus

Romans 12:6

- All of us are dependent upon Jesus. Every last one of us.
- We serve by the strength that God supplies.
- Anything that we're able to do, however well we're able to do it, is only because of him.
- The glory of men interferes with the progress of the gospel. This is not about my glory among you. Or your glory.

4 Still the Finest People on the Planet

1 Corinthians 13

- So then how are we to regard the brethren? I'll tell you, they're still the finest people on the planet.
- These are the people who have signed on to submit to the reign of the king.
- Just because they're different than you, they may do things that you wouldn't do.
- Love bears, believes, and hopes all things.
- Because love is hopeful. It's optimistic. It thinks the best. It doesn't always put the negative slant on things.

5 Your Judgments About Them Are Limited

- Your judgments about them are pretty limited.
- There may be things in their circumstances that you know absolutely nothing about.
- In the final judgment, I'm not the one bringing the verdict. And neither are you. God's judgments are not limited.
- We can admonish people, and we can encourage people, and we can serve people and love them and tell them, we want you to go to heaven.
- You'll never please everybody. Ever. But the one you had better please is the Lord.
- We are not of those who shrink back to destruction. But we are those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

THE CHALLENGE

So what about the judgment? The final judgment of our God. Are you ready to meet him?

MY NOTES