

But we are to do particularly good to those who are of the household of faith. There is a very strange thing about human nature. People have a tendency -- good people have -- to show a certain general benevolence toward all men. And then they have a tendency to show an especial kindness, a special help, a special benevolence to those who are right close to them in their view, in their outlook, in their membership, or whatever. But then they have a tendency to have the least kindness, the greatest animosity perhaps to those who are almost the same as they but just a little different. And they feel far less animosity to those who are further away than to those who are quite similar to themselves. And I believe that is a human error that is very easy to fall into, but an error that God wishes us to avoid in line with the teaching of this verse and of many others. As we have opportunity let us do good to all men, especially unto them who are in our local church. Yes. Especially to them who are in our denomination. Yes. But neither of these is what He says. He says, Especially unto those who are of the household of faith. The unity of the church is a truth which is very much neglected.

I suppose you've all heard the story which I don't think is nearly so true today as it used to be, but when I was a boy one commonly heard this story about a corner in a town where there were three churches, and in one church they were singing, Will there be any stars in my crown? And the one across the street was singing, No not one. And the one on the third corner was singing, That will be glory for me. I believe that that story illustrates a danger into which we can all easily fall. The danger of elevating a certain portion of the church above other portions. WE have to do our work ~~partially~~ particularly especially in a certain portion. But God wants us to do good to all those who are of the household of faith. He wants us to have true Christian love to all those who are of the household of faith. He wants us to remember that the church is not made up only of those with whom we have close relationship. In Rev. 5:9 we find the great multitude around the throne of God singing a new song, Thou art worthy to take the book and to open the seals thereof for thou ~~art/worthy~~ wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation. God wants us to be interested in the tongues, the people, the nations that are far from us as well as those that are near to us. He wants us to be interested in all of those that are --