



Tidings of
comfort
&
joy

INTRODUCTION

- So . . . what's next?
- *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*
 - “to save us all from Satan's power, when we were gone astray”
 - “how that in Bethlehem was born, the Son of God by name”

INTRODUCTION

- So . . . what's next?
- *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*
 - “**Repent** of sin, **believe** in Him, **accept** His gift of grace.”
 - “and with true **love** and **brotherhood** each other now **embrace**”

INTRODUCTION

- *Romans 15:7 – Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.*
- Goal Setting – I want to encourage you to set goals for 2018 that have **names** and **faces**.

TRUE LOVE AND BROTHERHOOD – CHRISTIAN FAMILY

1. The **foundational quality** of all Christian relationships is **love**. (vs.9-10)
2. Christian love is intentionally (and beautifully) **multifaceted**.
3. Christian love is **preferential devotion**. (vs.10)
4. Christian love is **hard work**. (vs.11)

TRUE LOVE AND BROTHERHOOD – CHRISTIAN FAMILY

5. Christian love is a “for-better-for-worse” kind of love. (vs.12,15)
6. Christian love is powered by prayer. (vs.12)
7. Christian love is not passive (with warm hearts only), but active (with busy hands). (vs. 13)
8. Christian love is humble and impartial. (vs.16)

TRUE LOVE AND BROTHERHOOD – WITH ALL MEN

9. Christian love, especially toward the unlovely, should be shaped by the teaching and example of Jesus.
10. Christian “paybacks” should not always be in kind. (vs.17)
11. Christians should endeavor to interact with others in ways that are evidently right and commendable. (vs.17)

TRUE LOVE AND BROTHERHOOD – WITH ALL MEN

12. Christians should pursue peace at all times with all men. (vs.18)

13. Christians should take a long and vertical view of justice and revenge. (vs.19)

14. Christians should tangibly love their enemies with the goal of being a sanctifying irritation. (vs.20)

TRUE LOVE AND BROTHERHOOD – WITH ALL MEN

15. Christians should practice a gracious and merciful kind of counter-intuitive overcoming. (vs.21)

PRIORITIZING LOVING OTHERS IN GOAL SETTING

16. Set your goals for 2018 through the lens of the GC's – the Great **Commission** and the Great **Commands**.
17. Carefully (and prayerfully) **evaluate** how you relate to those within your **sphere** of **contact**.
18. Identify ETL's (**Easy**-to-**Love's**) and EGR's (**Extra-Grace-Required's**).

PRIORITIZING LOVING OTHERS IN GOAL SETTING

19. Write out general relational growth areas and applications for specific people.

20. Be “devoted to prayer”.