

Reaching Across the Aisle

BEING “FOR” ONE ANOTHER

1 Corinthians 12.31; 13.13

No one reading the New Testament objectively can deny that God has a unique plan for every Christian during his or her life on earth. True, God has an eternal plan, but that plan begins in time and space. God desires that every believer be a functioning part of a local church – a local “body” or “family” of believers. These believers mutually care for one another, minister to one another, and consequently build one another up in Christ.

“Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” Ephesians 4.11-16

“One Another”

Again and again, New Testament writers exhorted believers to engage in specific activities that would enable the Body of Christ to function effectively and grow spiritually. Frequently they use a unique word to describe this mutual and reciprocal process – the Greek word *allelon*, most frequently translated “one another.” In fact, excluding the Gospels, the word is used 58 times in the New Testament.

“The Most Excellent Way”

*“And now I will show you **the most excellent way**...and now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But **the greatest of these is love.**”* 1 Corinthians 12.31; 13.13

*“For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and **your love** for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.”*
Ephesians 1.15; Phil. 1.3-5; Col. 1.4; 1 Thess. 1.3; 2 Thess. 1.3

*“Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. **And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.**”* Colossians 3.12-14

*“**Above all, love each other deeply**, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”* 1 Peter 4.8
*“A new command I give you: **Love one another.** As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”* John 13.34-35

*“And this is my prayer: that your **love may abound more and more** in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ--to the glory and praise of God.”*
Philippians 1.9-11

How Do We “Love One Another”?

“So in Christ we who are many form one body, and **each member belongs to all the others.**”

Romans 12.5

“**Be devoted to one another** in brotherly love.” Romans 12.10

“**Honor one another** above yourselves.” Romans 12.10

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a **spirit of unity among yourselves** as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 15.5

“**Accept one another**, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”

Romans 15.7

“I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to **instruct one another.**” Romans 15.14

“**Greet one another** with a holy kiss.” Romans 16.16

“You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, **serve one another** in love.” Galatians 5.13

“**Carry each other's burdens**, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6.2

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, **bearing with one another** in love.” Ephesians 4.2

“**Submit to one another** out of reverence for Christ.” Ephesians 5.21

“Therefore **encourage one another** and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

1 Thessalonians 5.11

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but **let us encourage one another** – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10.25

Sources

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