

FOUNDATION, Fellowship

April 19

INTRO: We live in a very individualistic culture...a very lonely world. The church is also often a setting of loneliness rather than connection. Among the church should be the last place you feel alone.

What do people need? True, authentic, real community...it is what we were created for! It is not beyond our grasp!

Acts 2.42: *They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. To fellowship (koinonia) – They were devoted to partnership (to truly being co-laborers), participation, association, and the communion of saints.*

Every member of the church is to be a functioning member of a local church, the body, or family of believers. Let's look at some text to see what these relationships look like:

MEMBERS OF ONE ANOTHER (Romans 12.5; 1 Corinthians 12.12)

Can an individual Christian function effectively by himself?

Why does God want us to be a functioning member of a local church?

DEVOTED TO ONE ANOTHER (Romans 12.10; Philippians 2.3-4)

Do I spend most of my time thinking about myself rather than others?

Do I spend time praying for myself or for others?

Am I forgiving toward others?

Of am I basically angry and resentful?

When I am hurt, do I withdraw or do I continue to be involved with other people?

Do I fear rejection or do I reach out to others?

Do I humbly consider others better than myself?

Do I look to the interests of others?

HONOR ONE ANOTHER (Romans 12.10; John 13.1-17)

How could you honor someone else this week?

BE OF THE SAME MIND WITH ONE ANOTHER (Romans 15.5)

Satan's strategy is to destroy unity among the church. But being of one mind can defeat his plan and bring unity and oneness to the church – John 17.11.

This is what reveals the gospel to the world – John 17.20-21.

ACCEPT ONE ANOTHER (Romans 15.7)

We violate this by judging one another (legalism – Romans 14.1; Colossians 2.16), in showing partiality (prejudice – Romans 12.16; James 2.9), and by not being reconciled to one another (bitterness - Ephesians 2.11-22).

ADMONISH ONE ANOTHER (Romans 15.14)

This is difficult, but it is a great sign of love. This isn't just done by anybody. It is done by those who are full of goodness, living a holy, Christlike life. Not just point out specks when they have a telephone pole in their eye.

Done with concern and love. Speak the truth in love.

Personal and private.

Persistent if it is to be effective.

Done with pure motives.

A natural outgrowth of function in the body – preventive, ongoing counseling to one another.

SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER (Ephesians 5.21)

Older Men and Younger Men; Elders (etc...)

Accountability

What kind of attitude – Philippians 2.5-11

SERVE ONE ANOTHER (Galatians 5.13)

Galatians 5.22:

Do you express Christian love to others?

Is there evidence of joy in your life?

Is there peace and unity with others?

Are you showing patience with others?

Are you kind in your actions and attitudes?

By your acts are you demonstrating goodness?

Are you faithful to others?

Do you demonstrate gentleness with others?

Do you control yourself in conversations and general life-style?

BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER (Ephesians 4.2)

To patiently endure; to have a forgiving spirit to others who sin against them.

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER (1 Thessalonians 5.11)

Build up and edify one another. Encourage people with the word of God.