

Class Based on “Building Up One Another” by Gene Getz**

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Preview

What has God called us to as a church?

- **What are some of your thoughts – what makes for a healthy church?**
- **If the Holy Spirit inspired the apostle Paul to write an epistle for FBC, what good things would he praise us for? What would he admonish us for?**

God has planted in the lives of every believer something special with the potential for accomplishing eternal good. Because of that, our lives have great purpose if we know Christ.

Today’s class is an emphasis on what God has called us to be and to do *with each other* in this body. It is called “Building up One Another” for three reasons:

One: that is what we are commanded to do – Romans 14:19; Ephesians 4:12; 4:16.

*Two: this is something we all need personally – **What are some things that leave us in a position where we need to be built up? Where we need to build each other up?***

*Three: The idea for the class came from a class Jim Annable and I taught 15 years ago called, *Building Up One Another*, based on a book of that title by Gene Getz.*

I. Building up the Church

- A. If you studied the life of the nation of Israel in connection with its kings, you’d study Old Testament books like 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles.
- B. If you studied the life of Christ, you’d study the gospels.
- C. If you were to study ***what makes an effective church***, you might study the letters written to early NT churches, such as those Paul helped found or helped strengthen. Letters like those to the believers in Rome, in Corinth, in Galatia, Ephesus and Colossae. Or letters to the people in Philippi and Thessalonica.
- D. In studying the letters to these churches, we see many messages. In those epistles, one thing that is **not** the **primary message** is affirming the identity of Jesus and calling on them to believe on Him and to therefore become Christians. That was the message of John’s gospel. Rather, the predominant message of these and other epistles (such as Hebrews) is that the life they’ve been given in Christ is so extreme, so life-changing, so powerful, that if they get a handle on it, their private life and the world in which they live will never be the same.
- E. But one of the most frequent messages in these letters to the churches of the first century is something else. It had to do with ***what they do for and with one***

another to make them strong in their faith, strong in their families, strong in their service and strong in their witness to the world. E.g., See Eph. 4:14-16

Interestingly, that is **the goal of FBC** as we seek *to prepare and deploy dependent disciples who change their world for Christ as we are being changed by Christ*.

F. If we could categorize these messages to churches to make each other strong, we might call them the “ONE ANOTHERS.” The apostle Paul uses the term “one another” 37 times in his letters. Let’s hear a few positive examples:

1. We are **to love** one another;
2. We are **members of** one another;
3. We are **to be devoted to** one another;
4. We are **to give preference to** one another;
5. We are **to honor** one another;
6. We are **to be of the same mind** with one another;
7. We are **to accept** one another;
8. We are **to admonish** one another;
9. We are **to greet** one another;
10. We are **to serve** one another;
11. We are **to carry burdens** with/for one another;
12. We are **to bear with** one another;
13. We are **to stimulate one another** to love & good deeds;
14. We are **to submit** to one another;
15. We are **to encourage** one another.

G. But negative “one another” messages to churches are also listed in the Bible. These are the one others” we need to be careful *not* to do. Here are a few:

1. We are **not to judge** one another;
2. We are **not to deprive one** another in the marriage relationship;
3. We are **not to “devour”** one another in conflict and bitterness;
4. We are **not to destroy** one another with abusive speech and falsehood.

H. What is worth noting is that both positive and negative one others are a solid indication of the maturity of an individual and of a church. In fact, the degree to which we find **the positive one others present** and the **negative one others absent** in the life of an individual, couple, family or church, to that degree will we likely see conformity to the image of Christ – the thing that is the goal of the Christian life.

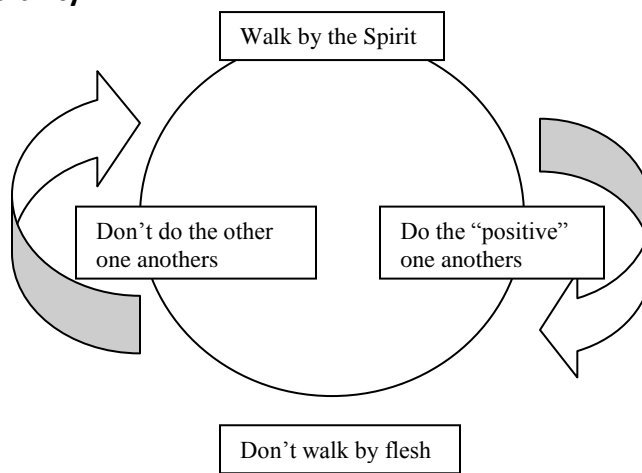
II. Let's Contrast the One Anothers

Passage	Negative	Passage	Positive
Romans 1:27	Lusting for one another	Romans 12:5	Members of one another
Romans 14:13	Judging one another	Romans 12:10a	Being devoted to one another; Give preference to one another
1 Cor. 6:7	Lawsuits with one another	Romans 12:10b	Honoring one another
1 Cor. 7:5	Depriving one another	Romans 12:16; 15:15	Being of the same mind toward on another
Gal. 5:15	Biting and devouring one another	Romans 13:8; 1 Thess. 3:12	Loving one another
Gal. 5:15c	Destroying	Romans 14:19	Edifying one another
Gal. 5:26a	Challenging/Provoking	Romans 15:7	Accepting one another
Gal. 5:26b	Envyng	Romans 15:14	Instructing (admonishing) one another
Col. 3:9	Lying	Rom. 16:16, 1 Cor. 16:20	Greeting one another with a holy kiss
Titus 3:3	Hating	1 Cor. 11:33	Waiting for one another
James 4:11	Slandering	1 Cor. 12:25	Caring for one another
James 5:9	Grumbling against	Gal. 5:13	Serving one another
		Gal. 6:2	Carrying one another's burdens
		Eph. 4:2	Bearing with one another
		Eph. 4:32	Being kind to one another
		Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13	Forgiving one another
		Eph. 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5	Submitting to one another
		Col. 3:16	Admonishing one another
		Phil. 2:3	Esteeming one another more important than yourself
		1 Thess. 4:18	Encouraging / Comforting one another
		1 Thess. 5:11	Build up one another
		Heb. 10:24	Stimulate one another to love and good deeds
		James 5:16a	Confessing sins to one another
		James 5:16b	Praying for one another
		1 Peter 4:9	Offering hospitality to
		1 John 1:17	Fellowshipping with one another

III. Interesting Principle: Walk by the Spirit or By the Flesh?

- A. Walk by Spirit and you'll not carry out the deeds of the flesh – Galatians 5:16
- B. Mind set on flesh is death, mind set on Spirit is life & peace – Romans 8:6
- C. Galatians 5:22-23 – Fruit of the Spirit = love, joy, peace, patience, etc.
- D. Galatians 5:19-21 – Deeds of the Flesh = immorality, angry outburst, addictions
- E. Notice that the “One Anothers” follow the Spirit (+) and the flesh (-)

IV. My responsibility



Discussion Questions

1. In 60 seconds, share name, place of birth/growing up, length of length of time at FBC and your family make-up.
2. In 60-90 seconds, other than in marriage, tell the best positive story of someone being good at the “one anothers” in your life.
3. Looking at the list of one anothers, share a situation where you experienced being either –
 - a. A member of one another
 - b. Devoted to one another
 - c. Like-minded with one another
 - d. Accepting one another
 - e. Admonish one another
4. What might block the one anothers in your life?
5. Homework: What two “one anothers” do you suspect the Lord would most like to see you develop between now and Dec. 31?