



**Message One ... Members of One Another**  
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Over the next six weeks we are going to look at a few of the key “one another” passages in the New Testament. When I say a few, I mean a few because there are over 50 such passages.

Jesus planted his church in a world torn by hatred and strife. His church was to be an oasis of hope where people accepted one another, cared for one another, and served one another. Today, begin by looking at two foundational passage written by Paul, the Apostle.

*Romans 12:3-5, For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.* NASB

Romans 12:10, *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; outdo one another in showing honor.* NASB

**RELATIONAL THEOLOGY**

Our God is a relational God.

He created humans for **relationships**.

He enters the world as **flesh and blood** to repair the breach in his relationship with mankind.

His **commandments** are relational (Matthew 22:36-40).

The mission of God is God choosing to involve himself intimately with the world with all its pain and its possibilities.

Jesus left behind a **people** through whom he would demonstrate God's new community to the world.

## **MEMBERS OF ONE ANOTHER**

One of Paul's favorite metaphors for the church is the **Body of Christ**.

Being a Christian is not only a commitment to Christ; it is also a commitment to the body of Christ – the people of God.

*1 Corinthians 12:12, The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.* NLT

To follow Christ is to trade **independence** for **interdependence**.

Christianity is not an autonomous, self-sufficient relationship with Jesus.

The metaphor of the Body of Christ helps us see the mutual and reciprocal process that enables the Body of Christ to function and to grow spiritually.

“Members of one another” means that no Christian can say to another, “**I don’t need you.**”

## **DEVOTED TO ONE ANOTHER**

Here Paul changes metaphors from **body** to **family**.

*Devoted* is the Greek word *philostorgos* which means the feeling of mutual affection shared among members of a family.

The Church – the community of faith – is God’s family

We are brothers and sisters.

**Honor** should be a signal mark of the body of Christ.