

The “Love One Another’s” of the New Testament

JOHN

A new commandment I give unto you, **That ye love one another**; as I have loved you, that ye **also love one another**. By this shall all [men] know that ye are my disciples, **if ye have love one to another** [Jhn 13:34-35 KJV]

*This is my commandment, That ye **love one another**, as I have loved you. ... These things I command you, that ye **love one another**. [Jhn 15:12, 17 KJV]*

*For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that **we should love one another**. ... And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. [1Jo 3:11, 23 KJV]*

*Beloved, let us **love one another**: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. ... Beloved, if God so loved us, **we ought also to love one another**. No man hath seen God at any time. **If we love one another**, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. [1Jo 4:7, 11-12 KJV]*

*And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that **we love one another**. [2Jo 1:5 KJV]*

PAUL

*[Be] **kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love**; in honour preferring one another; [Rom 12:10 KJV]*

*Owe no man any thing, but to **love one another**: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. [Rom 13:8 KJV]*

*And the Lord make you to increase and **abound in love one toward another**, and toward all [men], even as we [do] toward you: [1Th 3:12 KJV]*

*But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to **love one another**. [1Th 4:9 KJV]*

*For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only [use] not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but **by love serve one another**. [Gal 5:13 KJV]*

*With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, **forbearing one another in love**; [Eph 4:2 KJV]*

*And let us **consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works**: [Heb 10:24 KJV]*

PETER

*Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, [see that ye] **love one another with a pure heart fervently**: [1Pe 1:22 KJV]*

*Finally, [be ye] all of one mind, having compassion one of another, **love as brethren**, [be] pitiful, [be] courteous: [1Pe 3:8 KJV]*

The “One Another” Passages

The phrase “one another” is derived from the Greek word *allos* which means “one another, each other; mutually, reciprocally.” It occurs 100 times in the New Testament. Approximately 59 of those occurrences are specific commands teaching us how (and how not) to relate to one another. Obedience to those commands is imperative. It forms the basis for all true Christian community, and has a direct impact on our witness to the world (John 13:35). In addition to *allos*, the Bible uses other words and phrases to instruct us how to relate to others. With that in mind, the following list is not exhaustive, and primarily focuses on the use of *allos*.

POSITIVE COMMANDS

- Love one another (John 13:34 - *This command occurs at least 16 times*)
- Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)
- Honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12:10)
- Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)
- Build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Be likeminded towards one another (Romans 15:5)
- Accept one another (Romans 15:7)
- Admonish one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16) Greet one another (Romans 16:16)
- Care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)
- Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
- Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)
- Be patient with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
- Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15, 25)
- Be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
- Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19)
- Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5)
- Consider others better than yourselves (Philippians 2:3)
- Look to the interests of one another (Philippians 2:4)
- Bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)
- Teach one another (Colossians 3:16)
- Comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
- Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Exhort one another (Hebrews 3:13)
- Stir up [provoke, stimulate] one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24)
- Show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
- Employ the gifts that God has given us for the benefit of one another (1 Peter 4:10)
- Clothe yourselves with humility towards one another (1 Peter 5:5)
- Pray for one another (James 5:16)
- Confess your faults to one another (James 5:16)

NEGATIVE COMMANDS (how *not* to treat one another)

- Do not lie to one another (Colossians 3:9) Stop passing judgment on one another (Romans 14:13) If you keep on biting and devouring each other...you'll be destroyed by each other (Galatians 5:15) Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other (Galatians 5:26) Do not slander one another (James 4:11) Don't grumble against each other (James 5:9)

We do all this because we are in a real sense “members of one another” (Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:25).