

BE The Church — Devoted to One Another

You can't be spiritually mature without being emotionally mature. —
Pete Scazzerro

When looking at what it means to be the church, we are taking some of our cues from Acts 2 (but it's certainly not limited to Acts 2! Check out Leviticus and Deuteronomy for a devotion of Loving One Another!).

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Ac 2:42–47.

Fellowship

Koinonía

- Close Mutual association (See also 1 John 1:3; 1 Corinthians 1:9)
- Sharing, Participation (See also 2 Corinthians 8:4)
- Willing contribution, giving (See also Romans 15:26ff)

It's a whole life sharing of yourself. You can experience this in team sports, clubs, work teams, & the Fellowship of the Ring. But Christian Fellowship carries with the connotation of something much deeper.

“One Another” Commands

Allélon

- I'm in fellowship with another image bearer that is like me and yet not like me.
- If we want to understand the Bible, we must look at all the commands that involve how we treat one another.
- “One another” verse are used 100 times in the New Testament.
 - 1/3 of those uses focus on Unity
 - 1/3 of those commands focus on Loving On Another

Most unity tries to flatten differences to force a monocultural dynamic. But Christian unity is meant to be unity with expressed diversity. Unity is not just an ideal that is out of reach, because Jesus wouldn't have prayed that if it was impossible without God.

Unity

Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other [One Another].”

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Mk 9:50.

“Stop grumbling among yourselves [One Another],” Jesus answered

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Jn 6:43.

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to **each of us**. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Ro 12:6–8.

Accept **one another**, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. 8

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Ro 15:7–8.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with **one another** in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Eph 4:2–3.

Bear with **each other** [One Another] and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Col 3:13.

Be kind and compassionate to **one another**, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Eph 4:32.

Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for **each other** and for everyone else.

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), 1 Th 5:15.

Brothers and sisters, do not slander **one another**. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Jas 4:11.

Therefore confess your sins to **each other** and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Jas 5:16.



The Christian life can't be lived without the power of the Spirit.

Love

A new command I give you: **Love one another**. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Jn 13:34.

My command is this: **Love each other** as I have loved you.

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Jn 15:12.

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to **love one another**, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Ro 13:8.

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for **each other** and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), 1 Th 3:12.

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for **each other**, love one another deeply, from the heart.

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), 1 Pe 1:22.

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, **serve one another** humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Ga 5:13–14.

Be **devoted to one another in love**. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Ro 12:10–11.



We can't be spiritually mature unless we are becoming emotionally and relationally mature. The greatest cognitive dissonance for the world is seeing Christians who don't love each other well.