

Building Up One Another

Pursuing Love In The Local Church

Last week: Love One Another

- Love is the greatest commandment - Matt 22:35-40
- Love should define who we are - John 13:34-35
- Love is having to say I'm sorry
- Love is forgiving
- Love is expensive
- Love is more intent on solving a problem than winning an argument
- Love is patient, kind and refuses to keep score
- Love is (*never easy*) - challenging at times
- Romans 14:19 - "So then, let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another"

Topics for this study

- 1: Love One Another
- 2: Members of One Another
- 3: Devoted to One Another
- 4: Honor One Another
- 5: Be of the Same Mind with One Another
- 6: Accept One Another
- 7: Forgive One Another
- 8: Admonish One Another
- 9: Serve One Another
- 10: Bear One Another's Burdens
- 11: Bearing with One Another
- 12: Submit to One Another
- 13: Encourage One Another

Members of One Another

- Rom 14:19 - We are instructed to build up one another
 - To edify, exhort, admonish, provoke or stimulate
 - 1 Cor 14:12,26; 1 Thess 5:11; Heb 10:24-25
- Romans 12:4-5 - We are individually members of one another
- Pursuing love in the local church
 - We are: Members of one another!

Members of One Another

- What's required to maintain unity in the local church?
 - Working together. We are many members in one body
 - Eph 1:22-23 - The church is the body of Christ
 - The term “body” used to describe the church is used over 30 times in the NT

Members of One Another

- The physical/spiritual body analogy
 - No body member can function effectively by him or herself
 - 1 Cor 12:12-17 - The spiritual body requires a team effort
 - Rom 12:15 - Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep
 - Every member of the body is important
 - Every member needs every other member

Members of One Another

- The physical/spiritual body analogy
 - No body member should feel superior to another
 - Humility - Rom 12:3; Eph 4:2; 1 Cor 12:21-23
 - Some members have greater visibility and more recognition than others, however, each one is important to the Lord and to the overall effectiveness of the body

Members of One Another

- “When it comes to the human body, it is easy to award the M.V.P. trophy award to the expressive members on display: mouth, hands, eyes, ears, etc. Are not the hidden parts, however, equally as valuable: bones, muscles, nerves, blood, etc.? For example, it takes every part of the body working together just to walk into a room. No part of the human body has the right to say to another part - “I don’t need you!” The same is true spiritually.”

(Wilson Adams)

Members of One Another

- What are some roles/things that different members in the church do?
 - Evangelist, song leader, lead the Lord's Supper, lead prayers, bible class teachers, prepare the Lord's Supper
 - Maintain the church building, inside and out
 - Make phone calls or send notes to the sick or spiritually weak
 - Make meals for members in need
 - Send notes to or tell the teachers/evangelist how encouraging the lesson was. Or discuss the lesson with them
 - Send notes to visitors
 - Study ahead of time for classes

Members of One Another

- The physical/spiritual body analogy
 - All body members must work hard at maintaining unity
 - Rom 14:19; Eph 4:3 - Be diligent to preserve unity of the Spirit
 - Good marriages and strong churches don't just happen, it takes work
 - Things that destroy a marriage will destroy a church
 - Lack of attentiveness, taking others for granted, selfishness, ultimately a lack of love for one another
 - Phil 2:1-5 - Paul's prescription for unity

Members of One Another

- “Would someone categorize you as a criticizer or complainer? It is essential that we look for the best in one another and remember to “bear with one another” (Eph 4:2). That means we exercise patience together and go the extra mile of love. It means I don’t always have to get my way and that I verbalize my appreciation for you. After all, we are “members of one another” and the only way that works is if we all work together.” (Wilson Adams)

Members of One Another...

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- Every member of the body is important
- Every member needs every other member
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