



Expository Counseling Training Center

## The “One Anothers” of Relationships

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**Central Idea:** “People, created in the image of God, are made for relationships. Although the term ‘relationship’ does not appear as a word in most modern translations of the Bible, the concept is found in all books of the Bible. The Term ‘one another’ is repeated numerous times in the New Testament and always in a way that demonstrates how one believer is to relate (or be in a certain relationship) to another believer... Your relationship with God and your relationship with others is directly and intricately linked. As you work on loving other believers by obeying the ‘one another’ commands, you are, in fact, also growing in your love for God. The ‘one another’ passages of Scripture give very clear guidance on how to develop and maintain good relationships.”<sup>1</sup>

Through the one another passages we can answer three essential questions about relationships:

### I. Question #1: How Do We Build Strong, God-honoring Relationships?

- A. Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10) – show genuine affection for fellow believers; show brotherly love for fellow believers
- B. Give preference to one another (Romans 12:10) – put someone’s interest before you with respect
- C. Be of the same mind toward one another (Romans 12:16) – don’t think yourself better than another person but see them as equal in regard to your relationship with God and created in the image of God; find a common ground by which you can connect with others who may not have your status in life
- D. Accept one another (Romans 15:7) – be welcoming; show hospitality; bring along side of
- E. Be kind to one another (Ephesians 4:32) – be useful; be good to a person
- F. Be hospitable to one another (1 Peter 4:9) – show kindness to strangers; be welcoming and allow people into your home or area with the right attitude
- G. Be humble toward one another (1 Peter 5:5) – demonstrate submission and unselfishness towards others with an appropriate view of who you are and who you are not in the sight of God and others
- H. Greet one another (1 Peter 5:14) – welcome and receive kindly into your space
- I. Fellowship with one another (1 John 1:7) – be joined in close relationship; an intimate association with one another that involves sharing of one’s life with one another

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Stuart Scott and S. Andrew Jin, *31 Ways to Be a “One Another” Christian: Loving Others with the Love of Jesus* (Shepherd Press, 2010), 11-12.

- J. Love one another (1 Thessalonians 3:12) – do what is best for someone
- K. Regard one another (Philippians 2:3) – set a high value on; prize as more valuable than yourself
- L. Care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25) – be concerned about one another; look out for one another

## II. **Question #2: What are Some Essential God-honoring Ways We Can Benefit Each Other?**

- A. Serve one another (1 Peter 4:10) – within the guardrails and guidelines of God’s will and according to one’s gifts and as one’s calling as a Christian, attend to someone’s needs, render assistance to someone, to provide for someone
- B. Deprive not one another (1 Corinthians 7:5) – for legally married couples only, do not withhold sex from one another but provide accordingly to one another
- C. Comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18) – to come alongside in order to console, to cheer up, to provide support
- D. Teach one another (Colossians 3:16) – to provide insight; give instruction in regard to truth
- E. Pray for one another (1 Timothy 2:1) – approach God on behalf for someone else
- F. Stimulate one another to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24) – to stir up by strong argument to seek the highest good others along with acts that will be beneficial to others according to God’s will and way
- G. Seek good for one another (1 Thessalonians 5:15) – to be useful, beneficial, profitable according to what is morally right in the sight of God
- H. Bear one another’s burdens (Galatians 6:2) – to take care of or provide for someone in such a way that you take care of a person’s spiritual, social, physical problems that keep them from being responsible to do what God commands, so that one can do what he/she is responsible before God to do

## III. **How Do We Maintain A Bond With Each Other?**

- A. Judge not and build up one another (Romans 14:13, 19) – do not put down in a critical manner for wrongdoing; do not determine in one’s own mind what is right and wrong in relation to another; to seek to edify others; to seek to strengthening others, ultimately to bring spiritual profit or advancement of others according to the will and ways of God<sup>2</sup>
- B. Challenge not and envy not one another (Galatians 5:26) – do not provoke or seek to challenge/irritate someone in a negative way; do not hold a grudge or be bitter in heart against someone because they have what you want

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<sup>2</sup> Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

- C. Bear with one another (Colossians 3:13) – to put up with; to endure; to show self-restraint towards the unpleasantness of others and/or the non-sinful but annoying habits of others
- D. Pursue peace with one another (1 Thessalonians 5:13) – to pursue harmonious relations; to seek to be on one accord with others according to God’s will and good pleasure
- E. Speak not against one another (James 4:11) – do not slander; do not attack the good name or reputation of; do not say bad things against; do not speak with malicious intent toward another
- F. Complain not against one another (James 5:9) – do not grumble against, do not groan against
- G. Confess to one another (James 5:16) – to openly admit your sins to each other
- H. Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13) – to no longer hold an ought you have against someone as they seek to own up to that ought accordingly
- I. Be subject to one another (Ephesians 5:21) – to submit to the direction of others within the guidelines and guardrails of a God-ordained relationship according to their role in relationship to you
- J. Speak truthfully to one another (Ephesians 4:25) – to provide the facts; to maintain integrity with others by being honest in sharing that which is right and real in the sight of God appropriately
- K. Admonish one another (Romans 15:14) – to teach on proper behavior and belief; to rebuke for wrongdoing; to warn about the consequences of wrong behavior