

One Another Pt. 1

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, July 14, 2019

Main Theme – Sharing a summer series based upon the often-repeated NT phrase: ‘One Another’

WORSHIP & PRAYER

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Regular Events**
 - August Small Group Ministry Sabbatical (i.e., WM, MM, and CYC)
 - Summer Week of Prayer & Fasting – August 5–9 (Sign-Ups Coming)
- **Special Events**
 - Family Fun Day – Saturday, August 10 (Time) on the S. Barre Common (Help?)

MORNING OFFERING PT. 1

At this time, I want to call forth our ushers. TWO offerings will be collected this morning:

- 1) The 1st offering goes to support this local work and community outreach
- 2) The 2nd offering goes to support our regular missionaries (foreign/domestic)

May the Lord bless you as you give! May you experience His faithfulness in kind!

Luke 6:38 (NIV)

38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

MORNING OFFERING PT. 2

NOTE – I would like to take a moment to pray for our church members ministering in Haiti. PRAY

-
- **CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN’S CHURCH**
-

One Another Pt. 1

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, July 14, 2019

Main Theme – Sharing a summer series based upon the often-repeated NT phrase: ‘One Another’

INTRODUCTION

As always it is wonderful to see you. I do look forward to these moments of corporate worship and instruction. I pray that you are ready to receive what the Lord has for you today. Please have your Bible at the ready and be prepared to take some notes.

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 1

FYI – This morning I want to introduce a new multi-part summer sermon SERIES entitled “One Another” (**SLIDE**). The meaning of this title become clear in the moments ahead. Since today’s message will only serve to provide a foundation for future material, it will likely be somewhat Brief (25 v. the customary 35 minutes).

In order to establish a SUITABLE foundation for this series, I’d like to begin with Matthew ch. 22.

NOTE – In CONTEXT, Jesus is about to provide an impacting ANSWER to a penetrating QUESTION (even IF said question was asked for the wrong reasons). The **QUESTION**: “Jesus, what is the greatest commandment found in the Law—what we would call the Old Testament Law of Moses?”

i.e., “DISTILL for me the whole of man’s duty before God in the most simple-&-summary of ways.”

KEY – Jesus’ timeless REPLY is recorded for all time in Matthew 22:37–40 (Familiar Passage) ...

Matthew 22:37–40 (NIV)

37 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ [Deut. 6:5] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ [Lev. 19:18] 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 2

NOTE – Herein we see man’s obligation to God summarized in a TWO-fold manner:

1) Man is to love the Lord fully (v. 37).

-This is man’s PRIMARY/CHIEF duty (v. 38).

2) Man is to love others to a selfless/sacrificial degree (v. 39).

-This is similar in nature to the first aspect of the GC (yet it differs in DIRECTIONALITY).

i.e., Man has a VERTICAL obligation – we are to love the Lord God

i.e., Man has a HORIZONTAL obligation – we are to love our neighbor

KEY – If we strive to love the Lord and love others as we ought, EVERYTHING else will naturally fall into place. i.e., You will have a SUFFICIENT foundation for a life of dutiful obedience (as Jesus noted in v. 40): “All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

DELVING DEEPER

I want to advance the story a bit & delve deeper into the words of Christ found in Matthew 22 ...

NOTE – I POSIT that there is a deep CONNECTION between the two aspects of this singular command. Namely, our vertical relationship with God is made MANIFEST in our horizontal relationship(s) with others. i.e., The reality—or the absence—of our love for God is EVIDENCED in the manner in which we treat others (REPEAT).

This is an association/connection addressed time & again throughout Scripture. Let me illustrate.

ILLUSTRATION PT. 1

KEY – JESUS noted this connection in His teaching. Consider the following (briefly) ...

John 14:15

“If you love me, keep my commands.”

John 14:15 (ESV)

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

NOTE – A love for God will MANIFEST in an OBEDIENCE to His divine mandate(s)!

Q. And what precisely is that mandate/command of Christ (in greater context)?

John 15:12, 17 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)

12 My command is **this**: Love **each other** as I have loved you. . . . 17 **This** is my command: **Love each other**.

Thus, the dynamic between a love for God and a love for others is apparent. It appears elsewhere!

ILLUSTRATION PT. 2

KEY – This connection is made clear in the latter writings of the apostle JOHN. Let's consider a selection from the writings of this eminent apostle who was known as/called the BELOVED disciple.

1 John 2:9–11

9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. 10 Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. 11 But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

1 John 3:10, 14–15, 17

10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister. . . . 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. 15 Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. . . . 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

1 John 4:20–21

20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

Thus, the dynamic between a love for God and a love for others is apparent. It appears elsewhere!

ILLUSTRATION PT. 3

KEY – By extension, the reality of our FAITH is evident by a love for others. Consider the following:

James 2:14–24

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

18 But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

20 You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless [i.e., dead]? 21 Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” [Gen. 15:6] and he was called God’s friend. 24 You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

KEY – We are NOT saved by works, but by faith. Yet the evidence that our faith is REAL is works. -We are JUSTIFIED (declared innocent) by faith, but our faith is JUSTIFIED (evidenced) by works!

Ephesians 2:8–10

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

SUMMATIONS

SUMMATION – The REALITY of our faith in God and love for Him (i.e., the status of our vertical relationship) is EVIDENCED by how we treat one another (i.e., the operation of our horizontal connections). So much so, our care for others will be assessed at the judgment.

LET’S DISCUSS THIS FURTHER ...

THE JUDGMENT (FAITH & WORKS)

Matthew 25:31–46

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ 40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

44 “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ 45 “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

NOTE – At first glance this all seems to CONTRADICT the biblical premise that we are saved by faith and not by works (cf. Eph. 2:8–9). **Q.** IF we are saved by faith, WHY are works so emphasized at the Judgment?

A. Our works/manner in which we treat others is the best EVIDENCE of a vital love for/faith in God. i.e., Christ will look to our works at the Judgment as they are the best barometer that we are His. After all, it was Christ who said that a tree is known by its fruit (cf. Luke 6:43–45)!

NOTE – God will ultimately reward a godly love for others as it ultimately reflects a love for Him!

Hebrews 6:10

10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

SUMMATIONS

Allow me to offer a few words as I begin to put the final touches on the foundation for this series:

- 1) There is a connection between our vertical rel. with God and our horizontal rel. with others.
- 2) The best indicator to the health/vitality of your love for/faith in God is how you treat others.

KEY – Thus, we CANNOT downplay, dismiss or diminish our obligation to ONE ANOTHER (TITLE). Scripture NEVER does. In fact, this phrase (i.e., one another) is significant and appears OFTEN throughout the pages of the NT writings—each time addressing a different facet of our duty to our fellow man.

FYI 1 – For the next number of weeks I would like to consider some of the many ‘one another’ texts that appear in the Gospels and the Epistles. As we look to the Word, we will come face to face with the EXPECTATIONS of God regarding our horizontal obligations. Please DON’T deem this insignificant: one day this is what you will be judged upon and by!

FYI 2 – Because I love you and because I want you to delve deeply into the Word on your own time, I have placed an INSERT into the bulletin. This insert records EVERY appearance of the phrase ‘one another’ in the NT. Take the time to read and study!

You will be blessed as you do!

CONCLUSIONS

POST-SERMON Housekeeping – PRAYER

- 1) Pre-Service Prayer
- 2) Post-Service Prayer