

One Another Pt. 2

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, July 21, 2019

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

WORSHIP & PRAYER

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Special Notes**
 - August Small Group Ministry Sabbatical (i.e., WM, MM, and CYC)
 - Summer Week of Prayer & Fasting – August 5–9 (Sign-Ups Coming)
 - Family Fun Day – Saturday, August 10 on the S. Barre Common (Help?)
 - NLAG 40th Anniversary (August 1) – Special Event During August Potluck

MORNING OFFERING

At this time, I want to call forth our ushers.

-Thank you for your faithfulness in giving to the Lord/His work

-Your giving fuels the work of Christ in and through this church

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

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

FYI – Last Sunday we began a new multipart summer sermon series entitled ONE ANOTHER **SLIDE**.

NOTE – The phrase ONE ANOTHER appears DOZENS of times in the NT writings (each time addressing a unique FACET of our obligation to our fellow man). It is the PURPOSE of this series to identify/analyze these texts, allowing them to inform and impact the manner in which we treat each other.

- Please LISTEN to pt. 1 online and/or review the sermon notes (foundational for this series)
- Please take the time to REVIEW the many “One Another” texts found in the bulletin insert

Without too much of an introduction to today’s material – LET’S DELVE IN ...

THE CALL TO LOVE PT. 1

NOTE – Biblically-speaking the follower of Christ is called to LOVE (several key areas):

1) The Christian is (First and Foremost) Called to Love God – [i.e., Our Primary/Chief Duty]

Matthew 22:37–38 (NIV)

37 . . . 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.

Luke 14:25–26

25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:26 (PJV - Unauthorized)

“If anyone prioritizes or loves anything or anyone more than they prioritize and love Me, they cannot be My follower.”

THE CALL TO LOVE PT. 2

2) The Christian is also Called to Love Their Fellow Man

NOTE – The second aspect of Christ’s singular commandment (G.C.) is as follows:

Matthew 22:39b (NIV)

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Q. And who is my neighbor to whom I am obliged to love sacrificially and selflessly?

A. Great question (I am so glad that you asked)! This was a Q. directly posed to Christ...

Luke 10:25–37

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

26 “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

27 He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

28 “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

30 In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’”

36 “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

37 The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Q. Who is my neighbor to whom I am obliged to love sacrificially?

A. Any person that you come upon who is in distress or in some need.

THE CALL TO LOVE PT. 3

3) The Christian is also Called to Love Their Enemy

Matthew 5:43–48

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Romans 12:14, 17–21

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. 20 On the contrary:

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

ILL. – In *The Grace of Giving*, author Stephen Olford tells of a Baptist pastor during the American Revolution, Peter Miller, who lived in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, and enjoyed the friendship of George Washington. In Ephrata also lived Michael Wittman, an evil-minded sort who did all he could to oppose and humiliate the pastor. One day Michael Wittman was arrested for treason and sentenced to die. Peter Miller traveled seventy miles on foot to Philadelphia to plead for the life of the traitor.

"No, Peter," General Washington said. "I cannot grant you the life of your friend."

"My friend!" exclaimed the old preacher. "He's the bitterest enemy I have."

"What?" cried Washington. "You've walked seventy miles to save the life of an enemy? That puts the matter in different light. I'll grant your pardon." And he did.

Peter Miller took Michael Wittman back home to Ephrata--no longer an enemy but a friend.

THE CALL TO LOVE PT. 4

4) Christians Are Called to Love One Another

NOTE – Many of the “One Another” texts found in the NT writings center upon the theme of love. i.e., We are under obligation as Christians to love our brothers and sister in Christ (our sp. family).

John 13:34–35

34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 15:12, 17

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

Romans 12:10a

10 Be devoted to one another in love.

Romans 13:8a

8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another . . .

1 Peter 1:22b

22 . . . love one another deeply, from the heart.

1 Peter 3:8

8 Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

1 John 3:11, 23

11 For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. . . . 23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

1 John 4:7

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

2 John 5b

5 . . . I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another.

KEY – I would like to make several comments re: this particular emphasis on loving our sp. family.

POINT #1

1) Our Love for One Another Must Be Patterned After Christ's Love for Us

John 13:34

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

Q. How would you describe the love of Christ for His followers?

A. It could be DESCRIBED as unconditional, sacrificial and selfless.

John 13:1–5

1 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

NOTE – This is the TYPE of love that we are to have for one another (which he EMPHASIZED) ...

John 13:12–17

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Q. How can you put this prin. into application? What steps can you take to love in such a way?

POINT #2

2) Such Love for One Another Demonstrates the Reality that We Are His

John 13:34

34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Q. What is the best evidence that we truly belong to Him? Our love for one another.

NOTE – It is NOT our statements of faith; religiosity; piety; our political views, etc. (as good as such things may be in their place). It is the LOVE that we have for one another. By this love the world comes to know that we are truly His! Again ...

John 13:35

35 “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Q. What impact might such love have upon the broader lost community around us? Consider!

Acts 2:47b

47 . . . the Lord added to their number [Early Church] daily those who were being saved.

NOTE – We often MARVEL that people were being saved DAILY. Q. But WHY were they?

A. I posit that they were impacted—NOT just by the preaching—but by the evident love.

Acts 2:42–47

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 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, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

KEY – There was something magnetic and attractive about SUCH a love. I POSIT that there still is!

POINT #3

3) Our Love For One Another Makes the Invisible God Visible to All Men

KEY – There is an old adage: “You may be the only Jesus someone ever has the chance to meet!” i.e., People come to understand the character and nature of Jesus Christ through the manner of our life and living.

Q. What does your life/living reveal about Jesus Christ?

Q. Is your patience for others indicative of His patience (i.e., longsuffering)?

Q. Is your kindness for others an ‘adequate’ expression of His great kindness?

Q. What of His grace, mercy, compassion, faithfulness, trustworthiness; more?

Q. To what degree are the INVISIBLE virtues of God MADE VISIBLE in your life?

KEY – And what of His love? Does the world come to see His invisible love in your visible example?

1 John 4:12 (NIV)

12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

1 John 4:12 (NLT)

12 No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

KEY – “You may be the only Jesus someone ever has the chance to meet!” **SHOW** them something, and let your example bring **FULL EXPRESSION** to the **INVISIBLE**—but real—love of Christ! **REMEMBER THAT THE STAKES ARE REAL ...**

QUOTE – “If it weren’t for Christians, I’d be [one].” -M. Gandhi

CONCLUSION

1) We Are Under Obligation to Love ...

- Our God
- Our Neighbor
- Our Enemies
- One Another

2) We Are to Remember ...

- Our Call to Love as He Has Loved
- Our Love Reflects that We're Truly His
- Our Love Makes the Invisible God Visible

3) So Go Forth and Love One Another in Jesus' Name (APPLY THIS TODAY)

ILL – Juan Carlos Ortiz led a church in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and wrote a book called, Disciple. At one point, he realized his church was educated beyond their experience. They knew a lot more than they were putting into practice. Many of them were getting 2 or 3 sermons a week, plus Bible studies in homes. Before they had time to digest and apply one message, they were getting another. He decided it was time for a change.

So one Sunday, he stood up to preach, opened his Bible and read these words of Jesus: "Love one another." Then he sat down—he didn't say anything else, just sat down. The congregation sat there, waiting. So Ortiz got up and said again, "Love one another," and sat down. Now the congregation began to stir nervously—when was the pastor going to preach? So Ortiz got up a third time and said, "Love one another," and sat down again.

A man on the first row leaned over to the man next to him and said, "I think the pastor wants us to love one another." Then he asked him, "Is there anything I can do for you?" (Say it together.) When his neighbor admitted he was having some financial difficulty, the first man opened his wallet and said, "Let me help you." Soon, all across the auditorium, people were talking and laughing and praying and crying and giving. They were loving one another.

HOUSEKEEPING

POST-SERMON Housekeeping – PRAYER

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