

One Another Pt. 3

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, July 28, 2019

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

WORSHIP & PRAYER

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Special Notes**
 - Potluck Supper – Taking Place TODAY Following Service
 - August Small Group Ministry Sabbatical (i.e., WM, MM and CYC)
 - Summer Week of Prayer & Fasting – August 5–9 (Sign-Ups This Morning)
 - Family Fun Day – Saturday, August 10 on the S. Barre Common (11am–3pm)
 - NLAG 40th Anniversary (August 1) – Special Celebration During August’s 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 PT. 1

FYI – We are in the midst of a multi-part summer sermon series entitled ONE ANOTHER (**SLIDE**).

NOTE – The phrase ONE ANOTHER appears DOZENS of times in the pages of the NT (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.

FYI – Last Sunday we discussed the oft-repeated biblical mandate to LOVE ONE ANOTHER. As we noted, the Christian is under divine OBLIGATION to LOVE a) the Lord; b) those in need; c) their enemies; and d) one another (i.e., fellow believers).

KEY – This LOVE for ONE ANOTHER...

- 1) Is to Be Patterned After the Example of Christ (Jn. 13:34)**
- 2) Demonstrates the Reality that We Are Truly His (Jn. 13:35)**
- 3) Make the Invisible Nature of God “Visible” to All (1 Jn. 4:12)**

-Please take the time to review previous installments online (vid/notes) (www.NewLifeBarre.org)

NOTE – Let’s take the time to ADVANCE in our study (we have MUCH to cover). LET’S DELVE IN.

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 2

FYI – If the Church of Jesus Christ is to be ANYTHING in the Lord, it is to be UNIFIED. Time and again Scripture CALLS us to pursue, promote and persevere in a Christ-centric unity. Consider the following points:

1) The Bible Commends Unity

Psalm 133:1 (NIV)

1 How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!

2) The Apostles Called for Unity (e.g., Pauline Examples)

Philippians 2:2b

2 . . . make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

1 Corinthians 1:10

10 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

Ephesians 4:1, 3–6

1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

3) Christ Commanded Unity

Mark 9:50b

50 . . . be at peace with one another.

4) Christ Himself—On the Night of His Betrayal—Prayed for Unity Amongst His People

John 17:20–23 [After Praying for His Immediate Apostolic Followers]

20 "My prayer is not for them [i.e., the apostles] alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 3

NOTE – If the Church is to effectively FULFILL the mission of Jesus Christ and ADVANCE His kingdom upon the earth, a biblically-informed/fueled unity is ESSENTIAL. Can I make a rather simple—yet significant—statement: there is POWER in unity!

ILL. – In a Peanuts cartoon Lucy demanded that Linus change TV channels, threatening him with her fist if he didn't. "What makes you think you can walk right in here and take over?" asks Linus.

"These five fingers," says Lucy. "Individually they're nothing but when I curl them together like this into a single unit, they form a weapon that is terrible to behold."

"Which channel do you want?" asks Linus. Turning away, he looks at his fingers and says, "Why can't you guys get organized like that?" –Charles Schultz.

QUOTE – “Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look at what they can do when they stick together.” –Vesta Kelly

DELVING DEEPER

KEY – Ultimately, we are to HEED the COMMAND of the Lord (RELEVANT to this SERIES):

Romans 12:16a (Emphasis Mine)

16 Live in harmony with ONE ANOTHER.

NOTE – In fact, we are given the following command in a CLOSELY-RELATED text:

Romans 14:19 (Emphasis Mine)

19 Let us therefore make every effort **to do what** leads to peace and to mutual edification.

OR...

Romans 14:19 (ESV, Emphasis Mine)

19 So then let us pursue **what makes for** peace and for mutual upbuilding.

Q. What are those things [practical actions] that “make for” peace?

Q. What are those things [practical actions] that promote Christian unity?

Q. What are those things [practical actions] that are detrimental to such unity?

KEY – I put forth that MANY of the ONE ANOTHER passages of the NT will help to A these Q's. Many of the inspired ONE ANOTHER texts address practical actions/activities that either CATALYZE unity or DESTROY it. I would like to consider BOTH CATEGORIES (briefly) with the remainder of our time together...

PROMOTING UNITY

Let's begin by considering ONE ANOTHER texts that touch upon activities that PROMOTE unity. i.e., If you want to know how to ENCOURAGE unity in the Body of Christ, DO the following things:

1) Greet One Another

Romans 16:16 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)

16 **Greet one another** with a holy kiss.

1 Corinthians 16:20b (Emphasis Mine)

20 . . . **Greet one another** with a holy kiss.

2 Corinthians 13:12 (Emphasis Mine)

12 **Greet one another** with a holy kiss.

1 Peter 5:14 (Emphasis Mine)

14 Greet one another with a kiss of love.

QUOTE – These passages are the four places in the New Testament that refer to the “holy kiss”. In each instance, the Greek words denote a kiss which is sacred—physically pure and morally blameless. It was a common custom in most nations for people to kiss each other at meeting or parting to display their love, sincere affection, and friendship for each other.

In New Testament times, the holy kiss was a sign of greeting, much like the modern handshake. For Christians, it further expressed brotherly love and unity. The holy kiss was especially precious to the new believers during the early church years, because they were often outcasts from their own families because of their new faith. These new believers gloried in the new spiritual kinship they had found among other Christians. Furthermore, the holy kiss from a Jewish Christian to a Gentile believer was evidence that the Gentiles were accepted fully into Christian fellowship. Thus, the holy kiss expressed the recognition that all believers are brothers and sisters in the family of God.

Whether or not the holy kiss should be a tradition we carry on today is not clear in Scripture. Whether or not our salutations to our brothers and sisters in Christ include the holy kiss, the important thing is that our greetings spring from real love and friendship, be characterized by sincerity, and represent true Christian fellowship.

NOTE – This simple act/condition of the heart PROMOTES a godly unity within the Church.

2) Show Hospitality

1 Peter 4:7–9 (ESV, Emphasis Mine)

7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. 8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 **Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.**

FYI – Hospitality can be defined as “the quality or disposition of receiving and treating guests—and even strangers—in a warm, friendly, generous way.” i.e., It consists of making people feel “welcome and at home” through practical generosity and kindness.

KEY – This is a practice that ANYONE can engage in (e.g., opening your home to friends, sharing of a good meal, etc.)—though certain people REALLY seem to be GIFTED in this arena. The hospitality of some people AMAZES me (e.g., Aunt Annie)!

-We’ve all experienced GOOD hospitality. **Q.** How did that make you feel?

-We’ve all experienced POOR hospitality. **Q.** How did that make you feel?

QUOTE – “Some folks make you feel at home. Others make you wish you were home.”

NOTE – The offering of hospitality PROMOTES a Christ-honoring unity amongst God’s people.

3) Serve/Meet a Felt Need

John 13:14 (NIV, Emphasis Mine) [Context – Last Supper Foot Washing]

14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should **wash one another’s feet.**

1 Peter 4:10 –11 (Emphasis Mine)

10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others [NIV – “one another”], as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Q. What sp. gift, skill or talent do you possess that could be used to bless/minister to others?

Q. Has anyone in the church ever taken the time to serve you/your family? How did you feel?

NOTE – Selfless service PROMOTES a Christ-honoring unity amongst the people of God.

4) Submit to One Another (Practice Humility & Abandon Pride)

NOTE – It's NOT all about you! Churches SPLINTER when everyone makes it about them. Rather...

1 Peter 5:5b (Emphasis Mine)

5 . . . All of you, **clothe yourselves with humility toward one another**

Ephesians 5:21 (Emphasis Mine)

21 **Submit to one another** out of reverence for Christ.

KEY – PATTERN your humility after the EXAMPLE of Christ Jesus Himself...

Philippians 2:3–8

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

NOTE – Genuine humility and mutual deference PROMOTE unity within the Church of Christ.

5) Bear with/Forgive One Another

Ephesians 4:2 (Emphasis Mine)

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.
2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, **bearing with one another** in love.

Colossians 3:13 (Emphasis Mine)

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

NOTE – Patience, Forgiveness & Grace PROMOTE unity amongst the community of faith.

6) Practice Vulnerability and Mutual Prayer

James 5:14–16 (Emphasis Mine)

14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. 16 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.

NOTE – Vulnerability, openness and mutual prayer promotes unity in the Body of Christ.

DISRUPTING UNITY

Let's continue by considering ONE ANOTHER texts that touch upon activities that DISRUPT unity. i.e., If you want to know how to HINDER/OBSTRUCT unity in the Church, DO the following things:

1) Judgment (Prideful Superiority/Self-Exaltation)

Romans 14:10, 12b–13 (Emphasis Mine)

10 You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. . . . 12 . . . Each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. 13 Therefore let us **stop passing judgment on one another**.

NOTE – Consider the following—closely-related—text (spoken by Christ Himself)...

Matthew 7:1–5

1 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

KEY – It is NOT your job to JUDGE people. It IS your job to WARN of a coming judgment. It is PERMISSIBLE to condemn sinful ACTIVITY and ADDRESS the actions of a wayward believer (Gal. 6:1–2). It is NOT permissible to elevate yourself to the place of Judge and condemn PEOPLE accordingly (you are simply NOT qualified—but likely GUILTY yourself).

NOTE – Functioning as the Judge is just a manifestation of PRIDE. You do your job. He will do His!

Q. Do you want to see a disunified church? Let Christians think it is their job to act as the Judge!

2) Biting & Devouring One Another

NOTE – Let’s consider this text from the fifth chapter of the Book of Galatians...

Galatians 5:13–15 (Emphasis Mine)

13 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. 14 For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” 15 If you **bite and devour each other** [i.e., one another], watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

Q. What does it mean to “bite and devour” one another?

A. This is a BLANKET term that encompasses “mutually detrimental behaviors” (fueling disunity).

Galatians 5:19–21 (Emphasis Mine)

19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: **sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery**; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; **hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions** 21 and **envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like**. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Colossians 3:5–10 (Emphasis Mine)

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: **sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed**, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: **anger, rage, malice, slander**, and filthy language from your lips. 9 **Do not lie to each other**, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

James 5:9 (Emphasis Mine)

9 Don’t **grumble** against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

Q. Do you want to see a disunified church? Let Christians practice such wicked activities, etc.

CONCLUSION

KEY – Christian unity is NOT some mystical or unattainable thing that is fairytale-ish in nature. Rather, it is the RESULT of Christians doing those things that PROMOTE or MAKE FOR peace/harmony.

Romans 14:19 (Emphasis Mine)

19 Let us therefore make every effort **to do what** leads to peace and to mutual edification.

NOTE – What we CHOOSE to do with this information depends entirely upon us. We can put these principles into PRACTICE and EXPERIENCE deeper degrees of life-giving UNITY in our church, homes, and beyond (impacting the world around us). OR we can act according to our baser nature.

James 1:22b (NKJV)

22 . . . Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

HOUSEKEEPING

POST-SERMON Housekeeping – PRAYER

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