

The One Anothers of the New Testament - Part 4

HEBREWS, JAMES, 1PETER

STIMULATE

** How good it is to gather again in the name of Christ! You may recall that at the end of our last study we were challenged to do two specific things in the application of God's word.

They were to:

1. Choose the one another command from that study in which we have the greatest difficulty being consistently obedient.
2. Think of the one person that you find it most difficult to treat in that godly manner.

Our list of one anothers from last time sounded like this:

1. Regard one another as more important than ourselves, thus we are to anticipate others needs
2. Do not lie
3. Bear with [endure mistreatment without retaliation]
4. Teach and admonish
5. Abound in love
6. Comfort
7. Encourage
8. Build up
9. Live in peace

** Hopefully we are applying what we are learning to the day by day living out of our life with Christ.

It has been an encouragement to my own heart to remember number three in that list when applied to my interaction with the lost world around us, which is hostile to the truth of Christ..

MOTIVATE

** Do you really want to glorify the Lord with your life? What is the only environment the He has given us in which we can do this?

With other members of the human race. Believers and non-believers, family and friends, those that we hold as dear to us and complete strangers.

** Today the Lord, by His grace, will show us the key to glorifying Him as we live in this world. Here in Part 4 of **The One Anothers of the New Testament**, we are going to see that by being obedient to His Word, people around us will notice a tremendous difference.

Opening Prayer

INVESTIGATE

Please join me in the letter to the **Hebrews** as we begin our study for today. In **chapter 3, verses 12 and 13**, the writer introduces our next one another command.

As we look into this passage, remember that this epistle was written to three distinct groups of individuals. Hebrew Christians; Hebrew non-Christians who were intellectually convinced about Christ, but not willing to make a commitment of faith in Him; and Hebrew non-Christians who were not convinced. For the last two groups, this letter is a loving call to believe in the gospel.

V.12 ** Do you see the admonition as this verse begins?

Take care - "blepo" lit. means "to look" and has been translated; be on guard, behold, beware, careful, take heed, see to it.

** To whom is this admonition being given?

"brethren" - This is not referring to Christians, as is "holy brethren" in 3:1. Here it refers to racial brethren, unbelieving Jews who were in disparate need of salvation.

** What is the greatest sin of all?

The sin of unbelief. It is the greatest offense against God and brings the greatest harm to us.
cf. Matthew 12:31-32

** Where does that sin reside?

In "an evil, unbelieving heart"

** If a person hardens their heart against the truth of the gospel, where will it end up leading them?

"falling away from the living God"

V.13 ** With that disparate state of man as the back drop, what is our next one another command?

1) "encourage one another"

** Who is to encourage whom? ...and regarding what?

We believers are to encourage the unsaved around us to not harden their hearts against the gospel of Christ. cf. V.14-15

** Back in verse 13, how often are we to be encouraging others to accept the gospel?

"day after day, as long as it is still called 'Today'" That means right up until now and continuing into the future that the Lord gives us, one day at a time. cf. 2Corinthians 6:2

** What is it that causes the human heart to become hardened?

"the deceitfulness of sin."

Let me read from John MacArthur's commentary on Hebrews; "The old nature constantly suggests that sin is not as bad and that trust in Christ is not as important as the Bible says. From man's own perspective, he does not seem so wicked. 'I take care of my family, I am a helpful neighbor and a good citizen. I'm not perfect, of course, but I'm not evil, either. My life has room for improvement, but it doesn't need saving.' So the thinking goes. This is what the sin nature deceitfully tells men about their need for salvation."

Turn now to **chapter 10** and we will see the next command.

V.23-24 Read Passage

V.23 ** What reason does the writer give for holding fast to our confession of hope without wavering?

Because "He who promised is faithful" cf. Psalm 36:5, Psalm 92:1-2, Lamentations 3:22-23

V.24 ** That unwavering hope introduces our next one another command. What is it?

2) "Stimulate one another to love and good deeds!"

** Which word in this verse indicates the amount of thoughtfulness behind our obedience to the command?

"Consider" This eliminates the "crank it out in the flesh" approach to Christian behavior. We need to genuinely consider the needs, hurts and joys of our fellow believers so that we can stimulate them to live out the love and good deeds that God planned for them from before the foundation of the world. cf. Ephesians 2:10

Please join me now in the epistle from **James, chapter 4:11**.

V.11 ** Up until now we have seen positive commands that would change our behavior into Christ honoring patterns. How is this next command different?

3) "Do not speak against one another" - James now shifts gears for us, by teaching us what to not do he is able to accomplish the same effect.

** What is the problem with speaking against a brother?

The word speak against is "katalaleo" and means to slander. James is telling us to not slander our brothers behind their backs, because we are making ourself judge of them as well as of the Law. That makes us equal with The Law Giver, Jesus Christ, who alone is the Judge.

Next in **chapter 5:9** -

V. 9 ** What is the next thing to avoid in living with one another?

4) Complaining...against one another! This really strikes at the heart of the problem. Through our sinful complaining we can end up slandering those for which Christ died!

** What reason does James give to avoid this behavior?

The Judge (Christ) is standing right at the door. The grumbling sinner is just a heartbeat away from standing before the Judge.

V.16 ** This next two commands call for abject humility and pure transparency. If we do sin against each other, what two things are we supposed to do?

5) "Confess your sins to one another"

6) "Pray for one another"

** What will be the outcome if we obey these commands?

"you may be healed" The healing here is for the sickness of the soul and to make it whole again or to straighten it from its crooked ways, confession and prayer are needed. cf. Hebrews 12:11-13

** What is the secret to effective prayer?

A righteous lifestyle! cf. Psalm 66:18

For the last of our commands in this study, look at the very next epistle, **1Peter**. Beginning in **chapter 1** and **verse 22**.

V.22 ** What purifies the soul of a Christian?

When we became obedient to the truth! When we submitted to Christ as our Lord and Savior, He cleansed us from all unrighteousness. (1John 1:9)

** What was He creating in us when He purified our souls?

"... a sincere love of the brethren"

** So, now that we have purified souls and Jesus created in us a sincere love of the brethren, what are we to do - what is our next one another command?

7) "fervently love one another from the heart" - fervently (ektenos) is a compound adverb, composed of the preposition 'ek', which means 'out' and a verbal root meaning 'to stretch'. It embodies a picture of something stretched out and extended to the limit.

Chapter four repeats this command. - **1Peter 4:8-10**

V. 8 ** How is this different?

Here we are told to "keep" our love fervent.

** Why?

Because love covers a multitude of sins. Forgiveness!

V. 9 ** What is our next command?

8) Be hospitable. lit. loving strangers

** What is the qualifier for this command?

"...without complaint"

V.10 ** First, find the command in this verse?

9) serving one another!

** OK, what does every believer have in common?

We each have received a special gift at the time of our salvation. That spiritual gift is to be used, not for our benefit, but for the benefit of others.

** If we were to faithfully do this, what would we prove to, be according to the end of this verse?

"...good stewards of the manifold grace of God". cf. 1Corinthians 4:1-2

And finally in **chapter five** -

V. 5 ** This often repeated theme in the New Testament is here accompanied by a very strong motive. What are we to do?

10) "...clothe yourselves with humility toward one another"

** What is the motive?

"God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble"

Because we do not want to be found in opposition to our beloved Savior and we do wish to be recipients of His grace, we should be compelled to put on these new clothes!

EXTRICATE

** We have been privileged to learn so much today. Let me take you back to the beginning. Do you really want to glorify the Lord with your life?

Do you think that others around you will notice a tremendous difference because you were here?

DELINEATE

** What were the one another commands for today?

1. encourage (non-believers to accept the gospel)
2. stimulate one another to love and good deeds
3. do not slander
4. do not complain
5. confess your sins to one another
6. pray for one another
7. love one another, fervently
8. be hospitable
9. serve (as good stewards)
10. clothe yourself with humility

** From that list, what do you suppose is the key to glorifying the Lord as we live in this world?

Number 10, ...clothe yourself with "humility"!

EVALUATE

** How can I tell if I am a truly humble person before the Lord? Do I act piously in public and then take off the mask in private? Does this list seem like a welcome friend or a menacing enemy and intruder to my already full agenda?

ACTIVATE

** Lord, I know that you are opposed to the proud and it is my only desire to humbly serve You each day of my life. Please help me to worship you in spirit and in truth no matter where I am or who I am with, for the sake of Jesus Christ my Savior, in whose name I pray!

Closing Prayer