

The One Anothers of the New Testament - Part 3

PHILIPPIANS, COLOSSIANS, 1THESSALONIANS

STIMULATE

"In order for my life to truly change for the glory of God, I am going to have to be mindful of these very important areas of His instruction. Lord help me to honestly apply what you have shown me today!"

That quote came from the end of our last study time together on the subject of how Christians treat one another. Were you indeed mindful of our Lord's very important instruction? Did you honestly apply what you had learned from our last study together?

** What were the one another commands from our last study?

1. care for one another 2. serve 3. bear burdens
4. forbearance 5. be kind 6. speak 7. be subject

** Has anyone had an opportunity to live these out in their daily lives?

Absolutely yes! All of these commands are to be lived out everyday of our lives with everyone that we meet!

MOTIVATE

** Today's study, Part 3 of **The One Anothers of the New Testament**, will bring us to the midway point in our endeavor to become more Christ like. Knowing that we are about to be halfway through this study, how are you doing? Do you see any real change in your heart towards others? Can your spouse see the difference?

Can your family, neighbors, friends, co-workers or even strangers that you might speak with in the market tell that you belong to Christ because you live out "**The One Anothers**" listed in His word?

Opening Prayer

INVESTIGATE

** Again today, like last week, we will be enjoying three of the epistles penned by the apostle Paul. The first two are among those referred to as the prison epistles. That is they were written by Paul from Rome around 60-62 A.D., where he was under house arrest after his third missionary journey.

Please turn to Paul's letter to the Philippians, chapter 2 and we will begin our study for today.

Philippians 2:3-4 (Read passage)

V. 3 ** For some of you, this chapter has become a very close friend. You might even recall last time how we saw the greatest act of humility ever known to mankind. What was that?

Christ humbling Himself to become a man and being obedient to the Father, He suffered to the point of death, even death on a cross. (V.5-8)

** Here in verse 3 we not only learn the next "One Another" command but we also learn the secret to true humility. What is the next command regarding how we view one another?

1) "regard one another as more important..."

** How many Christians are to do this?

"let each of you" That means everyone! New Christians to mature saints, everyone!

** What two motives are we going to have to eliminate in order to be successful at this kind of genuine humility?

"selfishness" or "empty conceit"

** How are they different?

Selfishness is desiring all of the best just for yourself, while conceit indicates a poor job in evaluating one's own worth. By the way, why do you suppose the Holy Spirit chose the phrase "empty" conceit? cf. Colossians 2:18

Because all of our boasting is vanity and amounts to nothing or at least just being full of hot air!

V. 4 ** OK, let's say that we agree that we should regard one another as more important than ourself (not that we have to agree by the way; God said it, I believe it, that's good enough for me). But, that is such a lofty position, so spiritual, can't the Bible be more down to earth and give me some practical way of doing that?

Read verse 4 again!

** What action do you see being taken in this verse?

"look out" Paul means to anticipate the interests of others! Is that something on a practical level that we could do everyday which would help us to learn how to regard others as more important than us? Certainly....yes!

While we are still anticipating the needs of others, let's turn to third chapter of Colossians for the next three "One Another" commands.

Colossians, chapter three...

V. 9 ** Is Paul being evasive or beating around the bush as he instructs on this command?

No. He gets straight to the point.

2) Do not lie to one another!

It is an amazing study indeed to learn how many times throughout the Old and New Testaments that Scripture records people lying. Satan lied to Eve, Cain lied to God, Abraham lied, Sarah lied, Isaac lied and Rebecca lied. That list barely gets us half way through the book of Genesis. Our Heavenly Father wants us to avoid this sinful behavior toward one another for a very important reason. cf. John 8:44 - "...[Satan] is a liar, the father of lies"

Titus 1:1-2 - "...in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ago"

V.12-13

** Let's look at these two verses together for our next instruction. Before we get to the command, what are the five components to the heart of a true believer?

Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Remember beloved, this is who we are. All of our actions, even thoughts should be born out of this kind of heart.

V.13 ** Now that our heart is right before the Lord, what does He command us to do?

3) "bear with one another" How is this different from our last study, when we learned to bear one another's burdens?

This word is 'anexomai' and means to endure, to hold out in spite of persecution, threats, injury, indifference, or complaints and not to retaliate. cf. 1Corinthians 4:12-13

** What is inevitably going to happen to us in this life according to this verse?

Someone is going to complain against us! And how are we to respond? Forgiving them just as the Lord forgave you!

V.16 ** Our next command comes from verse 16 and while it sounds very familiar, in this passage it comes with the necessary equipment to obey it. First of all, what is the "One Another" command?

4) "teaching and admonishing one another"

We learned in Part one of this series (while in Romans 15:14) that we were "full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able also to admonish one another". Here in our passage for today, what is the requirement for every Christian so that they will "with all wisdom" teach and admonish his or her fellow believer?

Let the word of Christ [the Lord] [God] richly dwell within you!

** Which word in that command describes the amount of time we should spend in God's word?

"Richly" We should be rich in our knowledge of God's word. Not so that we will do well in the Religious category on Jeopardy, but so that we will pass the test of life each day that He lets us live for Him. - Also, the word "dwell", meaning to settle down and be comfortable!

For the last of our instruction in this study, please join me in Paul's **first letter to the Thessalonians**.

In chapter 3 and verse 11, Paul prays for the Thessalonians and us as well. Verse 12 contains the heart of his prayer and our next "One Another" command.

V.12 ** Does Paul pray that Christians would learn to love one another?

No! Why? cf. 1Thessalonians 4:9 - Believers are taught by God Himself to love one another.

** Then what two things did he want the Lord to do?

5) He wanted the Lord to cause us to "**increase and abound** in love for one another".

Chapter 4:18

V.18 ** This next command is powerful when we realize the only resource for fulfilling it. What are we to do?

6) "...comfort one another..."

** With what do Christians comfort each other?

"...these words" We should use the very word of God (which richly dwells within us) to comfort a troubled fellow believer.

And finally, **chapter 5:11-13**

V.11 ** This last set of commands is very similar to comforting one another. What are they?

7) "...encourage one another..."

8) "...build up one another..."

** What statement does Paul make that displays the reality of their saving faith?

"...just as you also are doing" True believers are those who can be seen obeying the Lord in their interaction with each other.

V.12-13

** What twofold request is Paul making here?

1. That we "appreciate" those who diligently labor among you. The word oida means "to have seen" or "perceived", hence - "to know".

We need to watch their lives, know who they are, how they think and copy their faith.
cf. Hebrews 13:7

2. That we esteem them very highly in love.

** What is the "One Another" command that Paul gives us at the end of this verse which will be the fulfilling of his twofold request?

9) "Live in peace with one another"

** How does that fulfill his request?

By living in peace with one another we bear the fruit of their instruction as well as copy the godly pattern we have come to know by watching their lives.

EXTRICATE

** Earlier in this study we learned to:

1) "regard one another as more important than ourselves".

What was the action we were to take that would teach us how to do that?

"Look out" for or anticipate the needs of others.

DELINEATE

** What were the remaining "One Another" commands that we need to be mindful of this week?

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 and 9. live in peace

EVALUATE

** As you review that list I would ask you to do two things. First, find the one area in which you have had the greatest difficulty being consistently obedient. Second, think of the one person that you find it most difficult to treat in this godly manner.

Now, I know that you know what is coming next.

ACTIVATE

Will you commit to the Lord this week that you will strive to be victorious in that most difficult area with that person that seems to be so hard to respond to in a godly manner, so that Christ will truly be honored in your life?

Closing Prayer