



Living out the One Others

2021 Summer Preaching Series

Personal Study Guide

Introduction

The “One Another” commands of the New Testament establish the core community dynamics that should characterize the Church at its best. When we are living in full submission to the Holy Spirit, we will honor Christ by living out these Kingdom virtues. There are well over fifty “One Another” statements made by Jesus and the Apostles. The bulk of them call for unity and love among believers. This summer Church of the Open Door will be examining twelve specific “One Anothers.” We trust this time will be fruitful in our lives and beneficial for the spirit of unity and love at COD.

As you work through this guide, allow the teaching of Christ in the Bible to shine a light on your life. Welcome the revelation of any areas that need to change, praise the Lord for areas that have matured, and ask how you might better live with your brothers and sisters in Christ. While the majority of the “One Anothers” are designed to be lived out between believers, treating the world in a similar fashion would be a powerful testimony to the transformational power of the Good News of Jesus.

How To Use This Guide

This Guide contains a series of thoughts and questions that correlate to the Summer Sermon Series. You can work through this guide on your own or you can join with others to talk through what you have learned each week.

Consider this weekly rhythm:

- Listen to the sermon.
- Re-read the passage and answer one question each day.
- Meet with an individual or small group to discuss your thoughts.
- Spend the final day reading the verses for the next sermon.

Additional Resources

- *31 Ways to be a “One Another” Christian* – Stuart Scott & Andrew Jin
- *Authentic Community: Practicing the One Another Commands* – Jim van Yperen

Be the Change:

Living the "One Another" Commands of God

Week of June 6, 2021

"Love...One Another"

John 13:34, "A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

The word love is used in a variety of ways in English. In fact, it is probably used to cover too wide a range of relational ideas. In the Greek of the New Testament there are four different words that are all translated as love. There is a word for romantic love, one for brotherly love, one for general positive regard, and one specifically used for the unconditional love given by God. C. S. Lewis's *The Four Loves* is a classic investigation of these ideas.

1. Think about how love is used in our culture. In what ways would the love demonstrated in the church be similar or different?
2. Sometimes, we have difficulty loving even ourselves, but Jesus says he loves you. What must you mean to God if he would love you enough to send his Son to die for you?
3. Jesus uses the word "command" in this passage. How does that change your perspective about loving one another? How does love connect to obeying of a command of God?
4. Spend some time thinking about how Jesus demonstrated his love for you. How should your love look if you use Jesus as a model?
5. Read Romans 5:8. How does that verse help shape the love we should have for each other?

Pray that God would give you his love for the world and the church? Ask him to help you put that love into practice.

Be the Change:

Living the "One Another" Commands of God

Week of June 13, 2021

"We belong to...One Another"

Romans 12:5-10, "So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."

This week's "One Another" summarizes the idea of each member of the church belongs to all the others. That belonging is defined by devotion and honor. By saying "we belong to one another," we are capturing what that mutual devotion and honor look like. This passage acknowledges our differences but does so in a way that is meant to draw us together, not push us apart.

1. What does it look like in your mind to be devoted to your fellow believers or to honor others above yourself?
2. What are the gifts, talents, or resources that God has blessed you with? What are some that God has blessed others with that he hasn't given to you? What do those differences mean for how the church should accomplish its work?
3. It is one thing to give, lead, or show mercy. What does it mean to do those things generously, diligently, or cheerfully? Can they be done insincerely?
4. Hating what is evil is strongly put. How do you think God wants you to live out a hatred for evil that still shows love to people?
5. What do you think it means for you to belong to the body of Christ? Does that allow others to make requests of you based upon how God has blessed or gifted you?

Pray that God would open your heart and mind to the ways he wants to you bless others and be available to serve them.

Be the Change:

Living the “One Another” Commands of God

Week of June 20, 2021

“Spur On One Another”

Hebrews 10:19-25 – “Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

This passage has a lot of references to the temple in Jerusalem. For some of us these details are unfamiliar. If you would like to read more about how the temple was constructed, you can read 1 Kings chapter 6. What the writer is doing here is connecting the ritual worship and sacrifices of Israel to the work of Jesus, the perfect sacrifice. The Most Holy Place could only be entered by the High Priest once a year, and the people did not have direct access to God.

1. As you read the beginning of this passage, what things are pointed out to give us confidence and assurance?
2. Who is faithful according to these verses? Why would that be motivating and encouraging?
3. Does the idea of spurring each other on seem negative or positive in these verses? Has that been your experience in the church?
4. There is a togetherness assumed in this passage. In what ways do you connect with other believers on a regular basis?

5. The "Day" that is approaching in this passage is the return of Christ? Do you find the tone of the writer different than you would expect? How does the return of Jesus cause you to be encouraged?

***Ask God to help you to spur others on in their faith
journeys with God.***

Be the Change:

Living the “One Another” Commands of God

Week of June 27, 2021

“Pray for One Another”

James 5:15-16 “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. 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.”

These verses are filled with hope and guidance for our relationships with our fellow believers. We are to pray for each other and confess our sins. The promise that the Lord will raise them up is assured in the resurrection of Jesus. Sometimes healing comes in this life; for the faithful it always comes in eternity.

1. Do you believe that prayer is powerful and effective? Why or why not?
2. Is it difficult to see yourself in the position of a righteous person? What would others say about you? What does God say?
3. Why do you think it is difficult for us to confess our sins to one another?
4. Have you established a group of people in your life who will pray for you and help hold you accountable before God?
5. This passage shows that godly community brings spiritual and physical health. Since that health is anchored in mutually supportive prayer, what would hold you back from praying for others and letting them pray for you?

Ask God to give you a passion for prayer, a heart to forgive, and a desire to confess and repent from sin.

Be the Change:

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Week of July 4, 2021

“Submit to One Another”

Ephesians 5:15-21, “Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

Many people will ask this question, “What is God’s will for my life?” Looking for occupational or vocational direction, they search for a plan to help them make strategic decisions in those areas. It is so interesting that the Bible does not give a lot of career guidance. It is almost an afterthought. Rather, the Lord’s will is most often connected to our attitude and behavior towards God and our fellow man. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 and Micah 6:8 to reflect further on God’s will.

1. What do you think are the opportunities the Apostle Paul is asking us to make the most of by being wise?
2. Sometimes, when we think about the days being evil, we get discouraged which leads to selfish behavior or distractions. How does the worshipfulness and thanksgiving in this passage contrast with that kind of life?
3. How often do you worship God outside of a church service?
4. Being drunk, being filled, and submitting are all words that convey control. We can let substances control us or we can let the Spirit control us. How does this play out in your life?
5. How does submitting to one another exemplify God’s wisdom, will, and control over our lives? How hard is this for you?

Pray that God would have control over your attitudes and thoughts. Spend time worshipping and thanking Him for who he is and all that he has done.

Be the Change:

Living the “One Another” Commands of God

Week of July 11, 2021

“Carry One Another’s Burdens”

Galatians 6:1-6, “Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, for each one should carry their own load. Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor.”

There is a massive amount of spiritual truth packed into this one paragraph. God is dealing with sin and restoration, caring for each other, pride and humility, and honoring teachers. Once again, the attitude becomes so much more important than the actions.

1. We are told to carry each other's burdens but carry our own load. What distinction do you think there is between a burden and a load?
2. Part of the burden we carry involves our sins. Why do you think this leads the church to restore others gently?
3. What do you think is the specific load God has called you to carry?
4. Comparison in the church never leads to holiness. Rather, we are called to compare ourselves to Christ. How is this change in perspective clarifying in how we see other members of the church?
5. How would sharing all good things with our teachers be connected to carrying their burden?

This week, pray for the discernment to know what burdens you are supposed to put down, what load he wants you to carry, and whose burdens you should be easing. This is serious work but leads to grace and joy.

Be the Change:

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Week of July 18, 2021

“Instruct One Another”

Romans 15:14, “I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another.”

One of the key responsibilities of the church is to be a place where discipleship happens. It's been said that believers should have someone who is further down the road mentoring them and someone newer in the faith whom they are mentoring. The classroom is life, and the textbook is the Bible. It is one of the reasons why Global Outreach is so focused on putting a Bible in the hands of people who do not yet have access. It is also why so much of mission work involves education. People need to be able to learn directly from God's Word.

1. Take an honest look at your knowledge and understanding of the Bible. Do you need to find resources to start learning? Do you need to start putting your knowledge to use by teaching and leading others? Contacting the church could be a great start.
2. Preaching is a key means of growth in the church, but it is not the only means. To what extent do you spend time feeding yourself in God's Word or helping to teach others? What might God be calling you to do about it?
3. Instructing one another is also a must if each subsequent generation of the church is going to stay true to the Gospel. What do you think you can do to help raise a new generation of believers?
4. Practical example: Find a fellow believer and practice giving the Good News of Salvation in Jesus to each other. Be open to critique and then try again. Here's a warning, though; God may just ask you to witness to someone in the near future. No fifth question this week, because this takes time.

Pray that God would give you a hunger for His Word and a desire to share with others.

Be the Change:

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Week of July 25, 2021

“Encourage One Another”

1 Thessalonians 5:5-11, “You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

God uses many metaphors to help us see the difference between a worldly life and life in his kingdom. This passage contrasts night, dark, asleep, and drunkenness with day, light, awake, and soberness. Now, God made the day and night and called them good, so we should not extend the metaphors too far. God is saying there should be a noticeable difference when we live for him.

1. Faith, hope, and love are compared to armor that is protective. How do you see faith, hope, and love protecting your life in Christ? How is that an encouragement to you?
2. How does the fact that God has not appointed us to wrath encourage your faith journey?
3. The call to continuously encourage each other with the message of salvation might seem repetitive. What does the fact that we are to do this continuously tell you about human nature?
4. How do you think living as children of the light, encouraged by the church, and building each other up looks to those who are

not following Christ? What would the church look like if it wasn't doing these things?

5. Who is one person God is asking you to encourage? How are you going to do that?

***If you need encouragement, ask God to put someone in your life.
Also, ask him to use you in the same way.***

Be the Change:

Living the "One Another" Commands of God

Week of August 1, 2021

"Accept One Another"

Romans 15:1-7, "We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

The Spirit of God stands in stark contradiction to the spirit of the world. This passage shows that. Endurance through insult, bearing with other's weaknesses, and not seeking our own pleasure are counter-cultural to say the least.

1. It can be difficult to sacrifice our strong position to build up and encourage someone in a weaker position. In what ways do you find God calling you to use your strength for someone else's benefit?
2. How might you experience insult in the same way that Jesus did? What do you think is the difference between combating versus enduring insult?
3. How does the church enduring insult, bearing with each other's weaknesses, and building each other up serve to glorify God?
4. How does the command in these verses lead to having one mind and voice?

5. How would you react to those who disagree with your faith today if you understood that they could someday come to faith and show up at church?

This week pray for the "same attitude of mind" as Jesus. Watch out, though! It could rock your world.

Be the Change:

Living the "One Another" Commands of God

Week of August 8, 2021

"Do Not Grumble Against One Another"

James 5:7-11, "Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy."

God's timing is not like ours. The Israelites waited for centuries for the Messiah to come and then most of them missed him. The church has been waiting for Jesus' return for 2,000 years. Thankfully, his return will be an event no one will miss! Even with all that elapsed time, we are told that God is standing at the door and his coming is near. If we believe God's word, that nearness just might change how we behave as we wait.

1. Is it easier or harder knowing that the patience God asks of us will find its fruit when Jesus returns?
2. How might you be called to show patience in the face of persecution?
3. Look at Job chapters 1 and 2. How might you be called to show perseverance when life gets hard?
4. How do you connect God's call to patience and standing firm in our faith with not grumbling against our fellow believers?
5. How do you think God uses the patience of his people in spreading his kingdom?

Pray about how God may want you to show patience or endure hardship or trial. If you are going through hardship or trial, pray that God would bring others along side of you to give you support. Pray how you may be able to support others going through trial and hardship themselves.

Be the Change:

Living the "One Another" Commands of God

Week of August 15, 2021

"Forgive One Another"

Ephesians 4:32-5:2, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

Love and forgiveness go hand in hand. We see this in the wonderful life of Jesus and are called to do the same.

1. Do you understand that God has forgiven you in Jesus? Take some time contemplating what that means. Feel free to worship God for that. If you could use someone to help you understand more, please contact the church.
2. God calls us to follow Jesus' example in forgiving others. Think about times when you have had to forgive others. Was that easy or hard? Was your forgiveness received? If it wasn't, think about the fact that, for many people, God's forgiveness goes unreceived.
3. We are told that forgiveness is wrapped up in kindness and compassion. These are attitudes that we should have whether someone has wronged us or not. How has God been leading you to show more kindness or compassion.
4. These verses say that Jesus "gave himself up for us." Have you been called upon to sacrifice for others in showing them love and forgiveness?
5. Are you in need of forgiveness from a brother or sister in Christ whom you have wronged or sinned against? This can even be a heart attitude that you have protected that needs to be acknowledged. Maybe that is a call you need to make today.

Pray that the forgiveness of God would be a permanent attribute of your life as you receive it and give it to others.

Be the Change:

Living the "One Another" Commands of God

Week of August 22, 2021

"Exhort One Another"

Hebrews 3:12-14, "See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But exhort one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the end."

We have a responsibility to help each other in our faith journeys. This passage emphasizes the life-long nature of our spiritual convictions but maintains our focus on "Today." This is an important reminder considering sin's deceitfulness.

1. These verses present the idea that sin creates an environment of falsehood that makes it harder to follow God. Are there any patterns of sin in your life that are leading you into deception about God and salvation?
2. When you are motivated to confront others regarding their sin and disbelief, is the motivation angry or vindictive or encouraging and redemptive?
3. Are you open to other believers encouraging you to put behind things they find to be sinful in your life? How could you create communities of faith support in your life?
4. In what ways would a focus on faith for today be helpful, as opposed to only having faith regarding things of the future?
5. Looking back on the summer series, how has God used the faith community to exhort you in your faith?

Pray that your heart will continuously be open to the discipleship of the Holy Spirit in your life. Celebrate back to God the changes he has made in your life.

Be the Change:

Living the "One Another" Commands of God

Week of August 29, 2021

"Be Kind and Compassionate to One Another"

Ephesians 4:29-32, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

We've heard it said, "If you don't have anything good to say, don't say anything at all." Maybe we could say, "If you don't have anything good to Tweet, Text, Post, or Meme..." Our model is Jesus, and if we remember that the Holy Spirit is always with us, we will check our attitudes and speech.

1. What do you think is the difference between "unwholesome talk" and speech that involves "bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander?" Do we inappropriately dismiss one kind over the other?
2. Humanly speaking, we would probably want to rate our speech on a scale of 1 – 10. Biblically, it is more of a True or False question. Does your speech live up to this passage of Scripture? True or False.
3. Take some time to think of the ways you have experienced the kindness and compassion of Christ, along with his forgiveness. How can you put that into practice in your family, community, and the church?
4. These verses talk about being "sealed for the day of redemption." What an amazing fact, yet the Holy Spirit can still be grieved by our speech. How might this impact your understanding of salvation and the presence of God in your life?

5. The "One Another" commands are for the benefit of the church. If you would like to share any specific results that God has worked in your life, please email the church and give a brief testimony.

Pray for the ongoing work of God in your life and the life of the church.



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