

We risk carefrontations as we invite people to joyfully follow Jesus' by caring for the needs of other through **generou**
"one another" relationships. (Numbering is for devotional reading.)
The "one anothers" form the eleventh commandment – a cultural thermometer

Devotional If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If
Week _____ the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others
Day 1/20 along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the
 member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. (*Matthew 18:15-17*)

Week _____ You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will
Day 2/21 not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes
 to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to
 give his life a ransom for many. (*Matthew 20:25-28*)

Week _____ Do to others as you would have them do to you. (*Luke 6:31*)

Day 3/22

Week _____ If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set
Day 4/23 you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you...I give you a new commandment, that you
 love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know
 that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (*John 13:14-15, 34-35*)

Week _____ They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
Day 5/24 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who
 believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and
 distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple,
 they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the
 goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.
 (*Acts 2:42-47*)

Week _____ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living
Day 6/25 sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world,
 but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is
 good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of
 yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the
 measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members
 have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one
 of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith;
 ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the
 leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to
 what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in
 zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in **hope**, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.
 Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless
 and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with
 one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not
 repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it
 depends on you, live peaceably with all. (*Romans 12:1-18*)

Week _____ If your brother or sister is being injured by what you [do], you are no longer walking in love. Do not let what
Day 7/26 you [do] cause the ruin of one for whom Christ died. So do not let your good be spoken of as evil. For the
 kingdom of God is not [superficial things] but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. The one
 who thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and has human approval. Let us then pursue what makes for
 peace and for mutual upbuilding. (*Romans 14:15-19*)

Week _____ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor
Day 8/27 again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."... But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater

honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. (*1 Corinthians 12:18-27*)

Week _____ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own
Day 9/28 way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (*1 Corinthians 13:4-7*)

Week _____ The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-
Day 10/29 control. (*Galatians 5:22-23*)

Week _____ But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from
Day 11/30 whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. (*Ephesians 4:15-16*)

Week _____ Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that
Day 12/31 your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But fornication and impurity of any kind, or greed, must not even be mentioned among you, as is proper among saints. Entirely out of place is obscene, silly, and vulgar talk; but instead, let there be thanksgiving. (*Ephesians 4:29-5:4*)

Week _____ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others better than yourselves. Let each of
Day 13 you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. (*Philippians 2:3-4*)

Week _____ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude
Day 14 in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (*Colossians 3:14-17*)

Week _____ And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, **encourage** the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient
Day 15 with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, **pray** without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (*1 Thessalonians 5:14-18*)

Week _____ Let us consider how to **provoke** one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the
Day 16 habit of some, but **encouraging** one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. For if we willfully persist in sin after having received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful prospect of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. (*Hebrews 10:23-27*)

Week _____ Therefore **confess** your sins to one another, and **pray** for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer
Day 17 of the righteous is powerful and effective. (*James 5:16*)

Week _____ Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve
Day 18 one another with whatever gift each of you has received. (*1 Peter 4:7-10*)

Week _____ All who hate a brother or sister are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding
Day 19 in them. We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. (*1 John 3:14-18*)

The “One Anothers”: An Exercise Based on the Eleventh Commandment

- 1. Reflect** We often need further clarification when we encounter the word “love.” The “one another” passages help to describe Christian love and the content of the Christian character. All who embrace the name “Christian” embrace the lifestyle of these passages even as we often fall short of them (thus the need for confession). Initially all of the passages cited contained the phrase “one another”. Take half an hour to reflect on these passages to prepare you for the steps below.
- 2. Pray** God promises to be present with us. As you come together, honor God’s presence by “speaking the truth in love” (speaking only with a desire to be constructive).
- 3. Encourage** Focus on one member of the group. Have every other member share a specific way they have received joy from seeing how the focus person lives out a particular “one another.” Feel free to share about joy-giving things not mentioned in these passages. Focus on each person in turn.
- 4. Hope** Reflection on the “one anothers” gives us a glimpse of how remarkable God’s people are called to be. If, as you reflected on these passages, you feel joyfully called to be or do any thing in particular, use this opportunity to share with the group your positive hopes. Be careful to hope only for those things that are largely in your control (they don’t require a specific response from others) and be cautious not to let your hopes be transformed into a demanding expectation of God, others, or even yourself.
- 5. Confess** Note “one anothers” you have fallen short of. Share the specific ways you are working on these “one anothers” and invite them to assist you in specific ways. Focus only on your own choices and try not to mention others at this point. You may need to follow up this exercise with a one-on-one apology to another person.
- 6. Provoke** All groups develop habits that can contribute or distract from following Jesus and pursuing joy. These habits involve things like motivation, distraction, media, modesty, language, sharing responsibilities, timeliness, sensitivity, and cliques. If you feel a need to provoke a group member to love and good deeds, or if you have concerns about how the group culture is developing, this is your chance to share. (If your concern is with one individual plan to confront them later – Matthew 18). Explain how a specific habit is impacting your pursuit of joy by saying something like, “It would really make me more joyful if…” Be careful to focus only on one specific habit at a time, be both patient and persistent, let others speak, and seek strategies for resolution in light of Romans 14 (avoiding behavior that interferes with the joy of any group member has priority over unnecessary activities other group member may appreciate).
- 7. Encourage** In this encouragement time have each group member share a way they feel the group as a whole is doing well or has grown since the last time you did this exercise.
- 8. Pray** Lift up group members in their hopes, confessions, and any resolutions the group has been provoked to. Celebrate the way the group is growing together and as individuals.

Alternative exercises (in all of these exercises the time can be designed to focus exclusively on one group member):

Only Encouragement – Plan to skip steps four through six of the exercise.

Personal Provocation – In step six focus on each group member like you did in step three. This time have each group member share an area where they think the focus person could grow in living the one anothers. Use with caution.

Vision Quest – Plan to skip steps five through seven of the exercise. Reverse steps one, three and four by having the focus person share whatever sense of vision they have for how God may direct them in the future. Have each group member reflect on the one anothers in the light of this vision. Then have each group member share their discernment of how the gifts of the focus person might be used by God in the future.

Discernment Quest – An individual, seeking clarity about a specific decision, should share what they are trying to discern prior to the exercise. Plan to skip steps three through five and combine steps six and seven so that group members can prayerfully ask questions and offer encouragement while seeking to hear God together.