

Healing Community Life Together

Focus

John 13:34 - 35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 13:14

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

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

This is a commandment that you cannot do by yourself.

For people to recognize us as disciples, what must love be?

- Intentional and deliberate.
- Visible.
- Practical

- Is love an emotion or an action?

- What will you do when you don't feel loved in the church?

- How will you respond when someone tells you they don't feel loved?

WORD STUDY

One Another (G240 - ἀλλήλων - allēlōn)

- each other, mutual, (the other)
- (them-, your-) selves,
- (selves) together.

Total KJV occurrences: 100

THE NEED FOR HEALING COMMUNITY

- Mental health professionals point to relationships and social engagement as key to health, wellbeing and longevity.
- A healing community is...
 - A place to learn to hold territory claimed in prayer.
 - A place to learn to live beyond brokenness.
 - To learn to live in wholeness. Practical wholeness is learned in community.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF HEALING COMMUNITY (JOHN 13: 34-35)

- Cannot be done by yourself.
- Small group.
- A compassionate expression of spiritual gifts.
- Compassionate discipline.
 - Exhort.
 - Admonish.
 - Reprove.
 - Rebuke.
- Community of practice and growth.

DESCRIPTION OF A HEALING COMMUNITY.

- Includes both interpersonal and plenary connections.
- Provides opportunities to shift our center.
- It is a serving environment. Exercise mutuality.

LIVING IN A HEALING COMMUNITY

- There needs to be a positive wholeness ratio.
- Members do not expect the group to focus on them.
- The simple rule.
 - Always interact in such a way that others will want to continue the interaction.
 - Three ways to break the simple rule.
- Mosquitoes and screens.
- Not problem centered but promise centered.
- Mutuality.
 - All learn from each.
 - Members seek to serve.
 - Members shift focus from inward to outward.

FINDING A HEALING COMMUNITY.

- Do I need a healing community?
- A small group ministry at a church?
- Find a group whose purpose is to serve; has a ministry focus.
- Gather your friends.
- Check your motive.

QUOTE...

...When God came to be among us he didn't come as a mathematician or a scientist. He came as a storyteller... He told stories people could live. At bottom, the Judeo-Christian tradition isn't a list of rules or a set of scientific theories; it's a big, long story... But Jesus didn't stop with stories; he also gave us a way to authenticate them... he told us that you tell whether a story is true by the lives of the people who tell it. You judge a story by its teller. You will know them by their fruit, he said. A good tree bears good fruit, a bad one bad fruit. If the people telling a story love each other and live together with depth and grace, then their story is true. If they don't, then their story is silliness—or worse. A good story enables people to lay down their lives for each other and become one. To put it in Jesus' own words, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another. A few chapters later he prays that his followers, "may be one... so that the world may believe that you have sent me." A story is authenticated when the people who believe it go to the cross for each other ...Notice that Jesus doesn't require belief in his story simply on the basis of authority... evidence mattered to him: here's how people will know that you are my disciples, here's how they'll know that I'm from God---that you love each other.

~ John F. Alexander, The Secular Squeeze

EXPLORE

One to Another

APOSTOLIC INSTRUCTIONS

Romans 12:10

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:16

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Romans 14:13

Therefore, let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.

Romans 15:7

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Galatians 5:13

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

Galatians 6:2

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Ephesians 4:2

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians. 5:19

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,

Ephesians 5:21

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 6:18

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Ephesians 6:18

Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere.

Philippians 2:3

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;

Philippians 2:4

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Colossians 3:9

Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices.

Colossians 3:13

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

1 Thessalonians 4:9

Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.

1 Thessalonians 4:18

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:13

... and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.

1 Thessalonians 5:15

See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all men.

Hebrews 3:13

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Hebrews 10:24

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Hebrews 10:25

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 13:1

Keep on loving each other as brothers.

James 4:11

Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.

James 5:9

Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

1 Peter 1:22

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.

1 Peter 4:9

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

1 Peter 4:10

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Peter 5:5

Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

ONE ANOTHERING IN ACTION

Acts 21:3-6

When we had come in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left we sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre, for there the ship was to unload its cargo. And having sought out the disciples, we stayed there for seven days. And through the Spirit they were telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. When our days there ended, we departed and went on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, accompanied us until we were outside the city. And kneeling down on the beach, we prayed and said farewell to one another. Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home.

Acts 9:36-39

Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them.

Paul's arrangement for the offering for the saints in Jerusalem.

1 Corinthians 16; Romans 15; 2 Corinthians 8.

Romans 16 (Read the whole chapter).