

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. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 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 12:9-16

Describe a time in your life when someone reached out to you in an unexpected way and truly ministered to you.

Look at the above verses and count all of the "one anothers." Who are these "one anothers" addressed to? What does this say about our responsibility to the family of believers of which we are a part?

Describe and discuss what each of these commands might look like real life:

- 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.
- Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.
- Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.
- Share with the Lord's people who are in need.
- Practice hospitality.
- Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
- Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.
- Live in harmony with one another.
- Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

How many other "one another" commands can you find in the Bible? List them below. Do you see evidence that these are only for religious professionals (pastors and missionaries)?

Read John 13:12-15. What do these verses tell us about how we should treat one another in the body of Christ? What does it mean for us to wash each other's feet? How picky are you about whose feet you wash, or about who washes your feet?

Read Mark 10:42-45. How are believers to be different from the world in how we relate to one another? What reason does Jesus give for serving one another?

Read the following quote:

*"The beautiful 'one another' commands of the New Testament are famous. But it is also striking to notice the 'one anothers' that do not appear there. For example, sanctify one another, humble one another, scrutinize one another, pressure one another, embarrass one another, corner one another, interrupt one another, defeat one another, sacrifice one another, shame one another, marginalize one another, exclude one another, judge one another, run one another's lives, confess one another's sins..."* Ray Ortlund

Can you add any other one another's that we are NOT to practice to the list? Can you think of a time when you have been the victim of one of these or even done one of them to someone else? How did that go?

Close your time by discussing opportunities you have to express one or more of the one another's we are encouraged to practice in the New Testament.