

“ONE ANOTHER” (1)

“A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love ONE ANOTHER; as I have loved you, that ye also love ONE ANOTHER. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love ONE TO ANOTHER.” John 13:34-45

What sobering words! This Greek word (a phrase in our English equivalent) is found 100 times in the New Testament. If the Lord uses one word only one time in the Word of God, then this makes the subject important. But the fact that He uses this word 100 times in the Word means that He is stressing the overwhelming need and urgency of the subject. God wants us to develop and implement His will in this area and in every area about which He has spoken in His Word. Togetherness, fellowship, mutual sharing and concern are at the heart of the meaning of this phrase. The specific phrases, “love one another”, “love for one another” or its equivalent is found 15 times within this 100 times of use. If the Lord’s people understand and practice these principles, there will be a decrease and even an elimination of the harsh and ungodly behavior that can be found in the Lord’s church, at times. It seems that we are our own worst enemies. We seem to have a habit of “shooting each other” rather than fighting the Devil and his representatives. And even in the process of fighting the Devil, one must be careful to have the proper attitude and concern for those caught up in that evil (Ephesians 4:15; 2 Timothy 2: 24-26; Galatians 6:1-2).

“LOVE ONE ANOTHER”

The Lord Jesus commands us to “love one another.” This Greek word, “*agapao*” is used 142 times in the New

Testament. This is a type of love that exhibits itself not only in feeling, but primarily in action. Action that is taken in order to benefit the person to whom the action is directed, is under consideration here. You and I are to exhibit this love to each other and to the Lord. Yes, our love for each other is to be patterned after the love we have been shown by the Lord (Romans 5:6-8; 1 John 3:16; John 3:16; John 15:12). This is the same kind of love we are to exhibit to the Lord (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3). Each person within the body is loved equally by the Lord and we must do the same. Loving a person is to be done in a specific way. We must love in word and in deed and not simply from the standpoint of lip service (1 John 3:18). John details how the child of God is to act toward his fellow brethren. Read 1 John 4: 7-21 Whether these verses apply to Christians or non-Christians is not the most significant point. If it applies to the people in the world, certainly it applies to the brethren! If we love as God does, then one will not find hatred, malice, vengeance, ill will and despising of others in our lives. Rather, we will go the second mile with people. One will do all that can be done to help all people go to Heaven, especially our brethren (Galatians 6:10).

The Lord intends that his people have a proper relationship with each other. The way he achieves this is to direct this relationship in the way it should go by giving us a detailed description of how we are to live and interact with each other. If we are ever to be what the Lord wants us to be, we must abandon the world’s way of doing things and adopt and embrace the Word of God. The world is always involved in “hating and hating one another.” It fusses and fights to have its own selfish way. It derides and devours those that attempt to contradict this

attitude and action. But, we must do the right thing, no matter the consequences.

“BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER”

“Be kindly affectioned ONE TO ANOTHER with brotherly love; in honor preferring ONE ANOTHER.”

The phrase, “kindly affectioned” comes from the Greek word, “*storge*.” The feeling and affection that one has for one’s family, is at the heart of this word’s meaning. What Paul is saying is that you and I as the family of God must care and appreciate each other just as we would our physical family. In fact, you and I should love each other and the Lord more than our physical family (Matthew 10:37; 19:29). Our very affection is to be patterned after the affection we have toward the Lord. The Lord is to come first with all other relationships taking a subordinate position. How do we feel about each other?

The next phrase in the verse is “brotherly love.” This phrase comes from the Greek word “*phileo*.” This word means that we are to have a “warm” close feeling toward each other. This is the friendship aspect of our relationship with each other. We are to be the closest of comrades and friends. When we cultivate this relationship it will bring us closer together. It will take effort on our part. At times, some brethren can be less than friendly to us. How are we to react? We are to continue practicing this very attribute even if there is no return of said attitude and action. We must do what the Lord himself did (1 Peter 2:21-23). *To be continued...*

Lee Davis from *The Reasoner*

BIRTHDAY

John Carter, 02-07.

ILL

Sunday: John Cody Carter; Millie Robertson (PM).

Wednesday: Millie Robertson; Debbie Schleif.

Millie Robertson is awaiting her test results. Clara Scott is scheduled for knee surgery on February 4th. Tom Tucker continues his eye treatment.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Barbara James' aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at the Sweet Life of Rosehill in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Chris Edwards was away on business last week. John and Debra Gragg leave for Hawaii on February 3 and plan to return in ten days.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday, February 1, following our AM worship. Plan to stay and enjoy the good food and company of the brethren!

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, February 8, following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to participate.

MISSION WORK

John Shafer continues in his labors in India at this time. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 44; Sunday PM, 38; Wednesday PM, 33.

Those To Serve

February 1, 2009

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Thomas

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas

SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher

OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemechek

PRESIDE..... John Cody Carter

ASSIST..... Joel Nelson

ASSIST..... John James

CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Chris Edwards

CLOSING PRAYER..... Steve Brown

LORD'S SUPPER..... John Cody Carter

WEDNESDAY 4th

SONG LEADER..... Steve Brown

INVITATION Trent Thrasher

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Morning Worship 10:30 AM

Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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