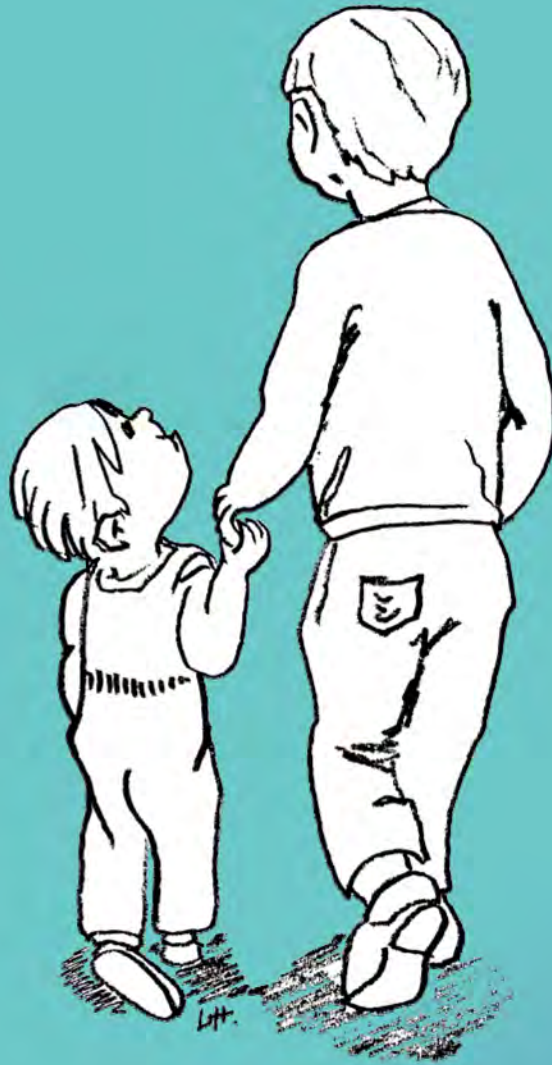


One Another Ministry



(Shortened edition for use
as a seminar handout)

Lionel Hartley

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by Lionel Hartley.

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**We must be in tune with Christ
to be in harmony with one another (Croft M. Pentz).**

One Another Ministry

So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members of one another (Rom 12:5).

The phrase *One Another* appears 234 times in the Bible. For it to appear that many times suggests that it is important enough to seek for a lesson. *One Another Ministry* is that lesson. As brothers and sisters in Christ, how should we regard one another?

The very first reference to *One Another* in the Bible introduces the aspect of **team work**:

And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar (Gen 11:3). This is the same as God saying to God, "Let us make man in our image (Gen 1:26).

Some missionaries in the Philippines set up a croquet game in their front yard. Several of their Agta Negrito neighbors became interested and wanted to join the fun. The missionaries explained the game and started them out, each with a mallet and ball. As the game progressed, opportunity came for one of the players to take advantage of another by knocking that person's ball out of the court. A missionary explained the procedure, but his advice only puzzled the Negrito friend. "Why would I want to knock his ball out of the court?" he asked. "So you will be the one to win!" a missionary said. The short-statured man, clad only in a loincloth, shook his head in bewilderment. Competition is generally ruled out in a hunting and gathering society, where people survive not by competing but by sharing equally in every activity.

The game continued, but no one followed the missionaries' advice. When a

player successfully got through all the wickets, the game was not over for him. He went back and gave aid and advice to his fellows. As the final player moved toward the last wicket, the affair was still very much a team effort. And finally, when the last wicket was played, the "team" shouted happily, "We won! We won!"

It is this teamwork that forms the basis of *One Another Ministry*. This *One Another Ministry* is not outreach, but reaching within—reaching to one another. Here are a few other things *One Another Ministry* entails (in alphabetical order):

Admonish:

And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another (Rom 15:14).

“At their school carnival, our kids won four free goldfish (lucky us!), so out I went next morning to find an aquarium. The first few I priced ranged from \$40 to \$70. Then I spotted it right in the aisle: a discarded 10-gallon display tank, complete with gravel and filter for a mere five bucks. Sold! Of course, it was nasty dirty, but the savings made the two hours of clean-up a breeze.

Those four new fish looked great in their new home, at least for the first day. But by Sunday one had died. Too bad, but three remained. Monday morning revealed a second casualty, and by Monday night a third goldfish had gone belly up. We called in an expert member of our church who has a 30-gallon tank. It didn't take him long to discover the problem: I had washed the tank with soap, and absolute no-no. My uninformed efforts had destroyed the very lives I was trying to protect” (Richard L. Dunagin).

Sometimes our in zeal to clean up the lives of one another (or our own), we unfortunately use ‘killer soaps’ — condemnation, criticism, nagging, fits of temper. We think we're doing right, but our harsh, self-righteous treatment is more than they can bear.

I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness,

complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another (Romans 15:14 New International Version) .

People are generally better persuaded by the reasons which they have themselves discovered than by those which have come into the mind of others (Blaise Pascal 1623-1662).

“Is anyone happier because you passed his way? Does anyone remember that you spoke to him today?” (Edythe Draper).

‘While preaching on John 13:14, the duty of disciples to wash one another's feet, Mr. Finlayson of Helmsdale observed, "One way in which disciples wash one another's feet is by reproofing one another. But the reproof must not be couched in angry words, so as to destroy the effect; nor in tame, so as to fail of effect. Just as in washing a brother's feet, you must not use boiling water to scald, nor frozen water to freeze them"’ (Charles Haddon Spurgeon).

Care for one another:

That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care for one another (1 Cor 12:25).

A blind man was discovered sitting at the corner of a city street with a lantern beside him. When he was asked why the lantern was there since light and darkness were the same to him, he replied, "I have it so that no one may stumble over me." What a message for Christians who have the light.

Comfort:

Wherefore comfort one another with these words (1 Th 4:18).

When a person is down in the world, an ounce of help is better than a pound of preaching (Edward George Bulwer-Lytton 1803-1873).

Compassion:

Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: (1 Pet 3:8).

Confess faults to one another:

For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another (Titus 3:3).

Should we all confess our sins to one another, we would all laugh at one another for our lack of originality (Kahlil Gibran, 1883-1931).

In his book, *The Preaching Event*, John Claypool tells a poignant story about identical twin brothers who never married because they enjoyed each other's company so much. When their father died, they took over his store and ran it together in a joyful collaboration. But one day a man came in to make a small purchase and paid for it with a dollar. The brother who made the sale placed the dollar on top of the cash register... and walked the customer to the door to say goodbye. When he returned, the dollar bill was gone. He said to his twin brother, "Did you take the dollar bill I left here?" "No, I didn't," answered the brother. "Surely, you took it," he said, "There was nobody else in the store." The brother became angry: "I'm telling you, I did not take the dollar bill."

From that point, mistrust and suspicion grew until finally the two brothers could not work together. They put a partition right down the middle of the building and made it into two stores. In anger, they refused to speak for the next 20 years. One day a stranger pulled up in a car and entered one of the two stores. "Have you been in business very long here?" the stranger asked. "Yes, 30 or 40 years," was the answer. "Good," continued the stranger, "I very much need to tell you something... Some 20 years ago, I passed through this town. I was out of work and homeless. I jumped off a boxcar. I had no money and I had not eaten for days. I came down that alley outside and when I looked into your store window, I saw a dollar bill on the cash register. I slipped in and took it. Recently I became a Christian. I was converted and accepted Christ as my personal Savior. I know now it was wrong of me to steal that dollar bill... and I have come to pay you back with interest and to beg your forgiveness."

When the stranger finished his confession, the old storekeeper began to

weep as he said, "Would you do me a favor? Would you please come next door and tell that story to my brother?" Of course, with the second telling, the two brothers were reconciled with many hugs and apologies and tears. Twenty years of hurt and broken relationship based not on fact, but on mistrust and misunderstanding. But then healing came; reconciliation came, because of that stranger's love for Christ.

Confess your faults one to another (James 5:16).

"The church is a place where we can admit our failures to one another" (Croft M. Pentz).

Consider one another:

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works (Heb 10:24).

A Chinese farmer was tending his rice paddy up in the mountain terraces overlooking the valley and the sea. One day he saw the beginning of a tidal wave — the sea retreated, leaving a wide portion of the bay exposed, and he knew that the water would return with force, destroying everything in the valley. He thought of his friends working in the valley and decided to set his rice field on fire. His friends immediately ran up the mountain to put the fire out and thus missed being killed in the tidal wave. As a result of this spirit of helping one another, their lives were saved.

An Arabian Proverb reminds us that, "A friend is one to whom one may pour out all the contents of one's heart, chaff and grain together, knowing that the gentlest of hands will take and sift it, keep what is worth keeping and with a breath of kindness blow the rest away."

When we begin to believe that there is greater joy in working with and for others, rather than just for ourselves, then our society will truly become a place of celebration (Jean Vanier).

Eat together and wait for latecomers before eating:

Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another (1 Cor 11:33).

They also serve who only stand and wait (John Milton).

When you do not know what to do — wait (Bob Phillips).

Edifying:

Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another (Rom 14:19).

Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do (1 Th 5:11).

There is only one verse in the Bible actually telling us to attend church and it is for this very reason: edifying. “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 10:25 New International Version). .

Is the Church a Zoo? Some church members are as stubborn as a mule about doing church work, but as sly as a fox in their own business deals; as busy as a bee in spreading the latest gossip, but as quiet as a mouse in spreading the gospel of Christ. Many are as blind as a bat to see the needs of others, but have eyes of a hawk to see the faults of a few. Some are as eager as a beaver about sport, but as lazy as a dog about our prayer meetings. Some will roar like a lion when things do not go just to suit them, but they are as gentle as a lamb when they need the pastor to solve some problem. Some are as noisy as a kookaburra when calling on the church for help or advice, but as timid as a kitten about talking to the lost and as slow as a snail about visiting absentee members and as sluggish as a turtle when visiting shut-ins. Many are night owls on Friday nights, but "bed bugs" on Sabbath mornings and as scarce as hen's teeth on Wednesday nights.

Encourage One Another:

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing (1 Thessalonians 5:11 New International Version).

Dante Gabriel Rossetti, the famous 19th-century poet and artist, was once approached by an elderly man. The old fellow had some sketches and drawings that he wanted Rossetti to look at and tell him if they were any good, or if they at least showed potential talent.

Rossetti looked them over carefully. After the first few, he knew that they were worthless, showing not the least sign of artistic talent. But Rossetti was a kind man, and he told the elderly man as gently as possible that the pictures were without much value and showed little talent. He was sorry, but he could not lie to the man.

The visitor was disappointed, but seemed to expect Rossetti's judgment. He then apologized for taking up Rossetti's time, but would he just look at a few more drawings - these done by a young art student?

Rossetti looked over the second batch of sketches and immediately became enthusiastic over the talent they revealed. "These," he said, "oh, these are good. This young student has great talent. He should be given every help and encouragement in his career as an artist. He has a great future if he will work hard and stick to it."

Rossetti could see that the old fellow was deeply moved. "Who is this fine young artist?" he asked. "Your son?"

"No," said the old man sadly. "It is me - 40 years ago. If only I had heard your praise then! For you see, I got discouraged and gave up - too soon."

A.A. Milne's Winnie the Pooh, the "Bear of Very Little Brain" is, nevertheless, a bear of sound wisdom: *One day Pooh Bear is about to go for a walk in the Hundred Acre wood. It's about 11:30 in the morning. It is a fine time to go calling--just before lunch.*

So Pooh sets out across the stream, stepping on the stones, and when he gets right in the middle of the stream he sits down on a warm stone and thinks about just where would be the best place of all to make a call. He says to himself, "I think I'll go see Tigger." No, he dismisses that.

Then he says, "Owl!" Then, "No, Owl uses big words, hard-to-understand words."

At last he brightens up! "I know! I think I'll go see Rabbit. I like Rabbit. Rabbit uses encouraging words like, 'How's about lunch?' and 'Help yourself, Pooh!' Yes, I think I'll go see Rabbit."

Envy not:

Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another (Gal 5:26).

As rust corrupts iron, so envy corrupts man (Antisthenes, Circa 445-365 BC).

An incident is related in Greek history of a wrestler who was so envious of Theagenes, the prince of wrestlers, that he could not be consoled in any way. After Theagenes died, a statue of him was erected in a public place. His envious antagonist went out every night and wrestled with the statue, until one night he threw it over. The statue fell on him and crushed him to death.

Exhortation:

But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin (Heb 3:13).

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching (Heb 10:25).

A friend is one who makes me do my best (Oswald Chambers).

Fellowship:

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin (1 John 1:7).

A certain woman made frequent trips to the branch post office. One day she confronted a long line of people who were waiting for service from the postal clerks. She only needed stamps, so a helpful observer asked, "Why don't you use the stamp machine? You can get all the stamps you need and you won't have to wait in line." The woman said, "I know, but the machine can't ask me about my arthritis."

We live in a world that has become extremely impersonal. You can take care of numerous business transactions without dealing directly with people. When you do talk with people, most of them aren't going to ask you about your arthritis. They want you to state your business and get out of the way for the next customer.

We can get our lunch from a machine if we choose to. We can take our own blood pressure at the drug store. It's been a long time since many of us have had a conversation with a real, live telephone operator. When you live in that kind of context, it's hard to find anybody who is the least bit curious about your arthritis, your gout, your bad cough or anything else that ails you.

People still need human contact. Solitary confinement is still the most severe punishment that a prisoner can receive. As Christians we need to be sensitive to the need that people have to be touched and cared for.

For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone (Rom 14:7).

Ben Jochai was teaching a group of students about the miracle of the manna when Israel was on the way from Egypt to the Promised Land.

One of the students asked, "Why didn't the Lord God furnish enough manna for Israel at one time to last the entire year?"

The teacher said, "I will answer you with a parable. Once there was a rich man who had a son to whom he promised an annual allowance. Every year on the same day, he would give his son the entire amount. After a while, it happened that the only time the father saw his son was on the day of the year when he was to receive his allowance. So the father changed his plan and only gave the son enough for the day. Then the next day the son would return for the allowance for the day. From then on, the father saw his son every day."

Forbearance:

With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love. (Eph 4:2).

"Anger is a fire; it catches, destroys, and consumes. Let us quench it by long-suffering and forbearance. For as red hot iron dipped into water loses its fire, so an angry man falling in with a patient one does no harm to the patient man, but rather benefits him and is himself more thoroughly subdued" (Chrysostom).

Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye (Col 3:13).

Satan's most successful maneuver in churches and Christian organizations is to get people angry at one another; to attack and insult our brothers and sisters, thus splitting the body of Christ (James C. Dobson, 1936-).

Gentleness:

But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another (Gal 5:15).

"In our rough-and-rugged individualism, we think of gentleness as weakness, being soft, and virtually spineless. Not so! ... Gentleness includes such enviable qualities as having strength under control, being calm and peaceful when surrounded by a heated atmosphere, emitting a soothing effect on those who may be angry or otherwise beside themselves, and possessing tact and gracious courtesy that causes others to retain their self-esteem and dignity.... Instead of losing, the gentle gain. Instead of being ripped off and taken advantage of, they

come out ahead” (Charles R. Swindoll, 1934-).

Greeting:

And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept with one another, until David exceeded (1 Sam 20:41).

Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you (Rom 16:16). All the brethren greet you. Greet ye one another with an holy kiss(1 Cor 16:20).

Greet one another with an holy kiss (2 Cor 13:12).

Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen (1 Pet 5:14).

Grudge not against one another:

Grudge not against one another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door (James 5:9).

It is said that a rattlesnake, if cornered, will sometimes become so upset that it will bite itself. That is exactly what the harboring of hate and resentment against others is — a biting of oneself. We think that we are harming others in holding these grudges and hates, but the deeper harm is to ourselves (Michael Green).

Instead of biting and devouring one another, let's ... serve one another in love (Charles R. Swindoll, 1934-).

Help:

Our job is not to see through one another but to see one another through.

For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up (Eccl 4:10).

Be grateful for the doors of opportunity and for friends who oil the hinges

(Anon).

What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?
(George Eliot)

Friendships form among people who strengthen one another (Franklin Owen).

Honesty:

Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another (Eph 4:25).

To be honest as this world goes, is to be one man picked out of a thousand
(William Shakespeare, 1564-1616).

Lie not to one another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds
(Col 3:9).

A commentary of the times is that the word honesty is now preceded by old-fashioned (Larry Wolters).

Honesty has a beautiful and refreshing simplicity about it. No ulterior motives. No hidden meanings. An absence of hypocrisy, duplicity, political games, and verbal superficiality. As honesty and real integrity characterize our lives, there will be no need to manipulate others (Charles R. Swindoll, 1934-)

Hospitality:

Use hospitality to one another without grudging (1 Pet 4:9).

Hospitality is not so much about beds as it is bosoms — opening your heart and arms to those in need.

“Bob Edmunds, my former colleague in the church where I used to serve in Elmira, New York, tells a story of what it feels like to be denied hospitality. He and his family were vacationing one summer and decided to worship at a prominent church in the Washington D. C. area. Apparently this church had quite a reputation for the quality of their preaching and corporate worship. The reputation held up, according to Bob and Susan's standards. And believe me,

they have rather high ones. The sermon was riveting and the music, inspiring. That much did not disappoint them. But the lack of hospitality did.

From the moment they arrived at that church to the time they left, not one person spoke to them - except for the pastor who made a feeble attempt on their way out the door. No one directed them to the nursery. They had to find it themselves. No one invited them to the fellowship hall for coffee and refreshments afterwards. They had to find it themselves. In fact Bob deliberately stood underneath the huge chandelier in the center of that spacious hall for at least five minutes - gazing up at it and looking as conspicuous as possible. But no one came up to him or introduced themselves to him. 'We felt as though we were invisible,' Bob says. "No one noticed that we were even there. I don't care how good the preaching and music were. Nothing could have made up for their lack of hospitality. That church was as cold and lifeless as a corpse'." (Rev. J. Scott Miller, *The Ministry of Hospitality*)

Hospitality is a test for godliness because those who are selfish do not like strangers (especially needy ones) to intrude upon their private lives. They prefer their own friends who share their life-style. Only the humble have the necessary resources to give of themselves to those who could never give of themselves in return (Erwin W. Lutzer, 1941-).

"There he lay, smack dab in the center of our sidewalk where the congregants had to pass on their way to Sabbath potluck. He reeked of liquor and sweat. Disheveled clothing with last week's spaghetti stains and gutter smears testified to his homelessness.

One of the saints approached me as Head Deacon to point out the pathetic situation and demanded to know what I intended to do about it. Obviously we could not allow such a thing. To have someone sleeping on our sidewalk in plain view of the public on a Sabbath Day was unthinkable. Swift action was the only course. Immediately I assured the 'saint' that I would not tolerate such a thing and took off toward the prone body. I could sense the wry smile from my fellow church member as he anticipated what was to follow.

When I reached the sleeping man, I reached down and aroused him with a gentle tug at his shoulder and a soft, 'Excuse me.'

With blood shot eyes he squinted to see who had disturbed his sleep, and as the fog lifted he acknowledged my presence. When I knew he was cognizant of me, I invited him to our potluck dinner and escorted him to the cafeteria as he eagerly accepted the invitation. To this day, I often wonder what the 'saint' thought as our guest walked into the dining room" (Dennis Yoshioka).

Humility:

And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another (1 Cor 4:6).

"The higher the bamboo grows, the lower it bends" (old Filipino saying).

F.B. Meyer once said: "I used to think that God's gifts were on shelves one above the other, and that the taller we grew in Christian character the easier we could reach them. I now find that God's gifts are on shelves one beneath the other. It is not a question of growing taller but of stooping lower; that we have to go down, always down, to get His best gifts."

Brett Blair writes, "Although I have never seen the Sequoia trees of California, known as Redwoods, I am told they are spectacular. Towering as much as 300 feet above the ground. Strangely, these towering trees have unusually shallow root systems that spider out just under the surface of the ground to catch as much of the surface moisture they can. And this is their vulnerability. Storms with heavy winds would almost always bring these giants crashing to the ground but this rarely happens because they grow in clusters and their intertwining roots provide support for one another against the storms.

When we are together, either as a family or a church, we provide this same support. Pain and suffering come to all of us. But, just like those giant Sequoia trees, we can be supported in those difficult times by the touch of one another's

lives. The knowledge that we have someone; that we are not alone; that there is someone who is willing to touch us, hold us, keeps us from being destroyed.”

Judge not:

Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way (Rom 14:13). There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another? (James 4:12).

In May 1855, an eighteen-year-old boy went to the deacons of the church in Boston. He had been raised in a Unitarian church, in almost total ignorance of the gospel, but when he had moved to Boston to make his fortune, he began to attend a Bible-preaching church. Then, in April of 1855, his Sunday school teacher had come into the store where he was working and simply and persuasively shared the Gospel and urged the young man to trust in the Lord Jesus. He did, and now he was applying to join the church. One fact quickly became obvious. This young man was almost totally ignorant of biblical truth. One of the deacons asked him, "Son, what has Christ done for us all--for you----which entitles him to our love?" His response was, "I don't know. I think Christ has done a great deal for us, but I can't think of anything in particular that I know of." Hardly an impressive start.

Years later his Sunday school teacher said of him: "I can truly say that I have seen few persons whose minds were spiritually darker than was his when he came into my Sunday school class. I think the committee of the church seldom met an applicant for membership who seemed more unlikely ever to become a Christian of clear and decided views of gospel truth, still less to fill any space of public or extended usefulness."

Nothing happened very quickly to change their minds. The deacons decided to put him on a year-long instruction program to teach him basic Christian truths. Perhaps they wanted to work on some of his other rough spots as well. Not only was he ignorant of spiritual truths, he was only barely literate, and his spoken grammar was atrocious. The year-long probation did not help very much. At his

second interview, there was only a minimal improvement in the quality of his answers, but since it was obvious that he was a sincere and committed (albeit ignorant) Christian, they accepted him as a church member. Over the next years, many people looked at that young man and were convinced that God would never use a person like that. And in doing so they wrote off Dwight L. Moody. But God did not. By God's infinite grace and persevering love, Moody was transformed into one of the most effective servants of God in church history, a man whose impact is still with us today.

Kind, tenderhearted, forgiving: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you (Eph 4:32).

Kindly affectioned:

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another (Rom 12:10).

"Love is the master key that opens the gates of happiness" (Holmes)

"Warmth, warmth, more warmth! For we are dying of cold and not of darkness. It is not the night that kills, but the frost" (Miguel deUnamuno).

Likeminded:

Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus. (Rom 15:5).

"And O that we were all like minded! That we felt the power of Christ's resurrection as [the disciples] did! How should we then "count all things as dung and dross for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord!" How should we then recover our primitive dignity, trample the earth under our feet, and with our souls be continually gasping after God? (George Whitefield)

Look one to another for support – and then support on another:

And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the

mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be (Exo 25:20).

The New Testament does not envisage solitary religion; some kind of regular assembly for worship and instruction is everywhere taken for granted in the Epistles. So we must be regular practicing members of the church. Of course we differ in temperament. Some (like you-and me) find it more natural to approach God in solitude; but we must go to church as well. For the church is not a human society of people united by their natural affinities, but the body of Christ, in which all members, however different (and he rejoices in their differences and by no means wishes to iron them out) must share the common life, complementing and helping one another precisely by their differences (CS Lewis, 1898-1963).

Love:

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another (John 13:34).

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another (John 13:35).

I believe that we can live on earth according to the teachings of Jesus, and that the greatest happiness will come to the world when man obeys His commandment "Love one another"(Helen Keller).

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you (John 15:12).

As out of Jesus' affliction came a new sense of God's love and a new basis for love between men, so out of our affliction we may grasp the splendor of God's love and how to love one another (Malcolm Muggeridge, 1903-1990).

These things I command you, that ye love one another (John 15:17).

Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law (Rom 13:8).

We do not live under a law of the jungle, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.

We have a new law: Love one another as I have loved you (John Powell).

And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you (1 Th 3:12).

But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another (1 Th 4:9).

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently (1 Pet 1:22).

Would not the carrying out of one single commandment of Christ, "Love one another," change the whole aspect of the world and sweep away prisons and workhouses, and envying and strife, and all the strongholds of the devil? Two thousand years have nearly passed, and people have not yet understood that one single command of Christ, "Love one another!" (Max Muller, 1823-1900)

For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another (1 John 3:11).

And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment (1 John 3:23).

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God (1 John 4:7).

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another (1 John 4:11).

No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us (1 John 4:12).

And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another (2 John 1:5).

Minister:

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Pet 4:10).

“The spirit of unselfish labor for others gives depth, stability, and Christlike loveliness to the character, and brings peace and happiness to its possessor. The aspirations are elevated. There is no room for sloth or selfishness. Those who thus exercise the Christian graces will grow and will become strong to work for God. They will have clear spiritual perceptions, a steady, growing faith, and an increased power in prayer. The Spirit of God, moving upon their spirit, calls forth the sacred harmonies of the soul in answer to the divine touch. Those who thus devote themselves to unselfish effort for the good of others are most surely working out their own salvation” (EG White, Steps to Christ, p. 80).

Not to steal nor or lie:

Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another (Lev 19:11).

Dishonesty is a scorpion that will sting itself to death (Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1792-1822)

Not to oppress:

And if thou sell ought unto thy neighbour, or buyest ought of thy neighbour's hand, ye shall not oppress one another. (Lev 25:14 KJV).

“In the Scripture, no national crime is condemned so frequently and few so strongly as oppression and cruelty, and the ‘not using our best endeavours’ to deliver our fellow-creatures from them” (William Wilberforce).

Ye shall not therefore oppress one another; but thou shalt fear thy God: for I am the LORD your God (Lev 25:17).

Not to rule one over another with *rigour* [Hebrew: *perek* (peh'-rek)], severity or cruelty):

And ye shall take them as an inheritance for your children after you, to inherit them for a possession; they shall be your bondmen for ever: but over your brethren the children of Israel, ye shall not rule one over another with rigour (Lev

25:46).

General Eisenhower used to demonstrate the art of leadership with a simple piece of string. He'd put it on a table and say: "Pull it and it'll follow wherever you wish. Push it and it will go nowhere at all."

Have peace:

The word 'Peace' occurs one hundred and eleven times in 104 verses of the New Testament in every single book excepting 1st John.

Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another (Mark 9:50).

First keep the peace within yourself, then you can also bring peace to others (Thomas À Kempis - C1380-1471)

Pray one for another:

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much (James 5:16).

Charles Haddon Spurgeon wrote, "Thomas Fuller gives the following interesting account of Gervase Scroop, Knight: "He engaged with his majesty in Edgehill fight, where he received twenty-six wounds and was left on the ground among the dead. Next day his son Adrian obtained leave from the king to find and fetch his father's corpse, and his hopes pretended no higher than to a decent interment thereof.

Hearty seeking makes happy finding. Indeed, some more commended the affection than the judgment of the young gentleman, concerning such a search in vain among many naked bodies, where pale death had confounded all complexions together.

However, he having some general hint of the place where his father fell, did light upon his body, which had some heat left therein. This heat was, with rubbing, within a few minutes, improved into motion; within some hours, into sense; that

sense, within a day, into speech; that speech, within certain weeks, into a perfect recovery, living more than ten years after, a monument of God's mercy and his son's affection."

True love of souls will seek them out with all the eagerness of this heroic son, and finding them, will be as persevering in attempts to save. Not all at once shall we see all we could wish in the objects of our holy care, but no difficulties must daunt us. We must continue by God's grace to agonize for their souls until we see them safe in Christ. The little awakened interest that cheers us must be nursed into anxiety, and through the Holy Spirit we must labor to see anxiety turned into hope, and hope to faith and salvation. None are too far gone for zeal and prayer. Love is ever hopeful, and God is ever gracious. Let us renew our search, and the Lord send us good speed today.

Pray together:

Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name (Mal 3:16).

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them (Matthew 18:20).

Question together:

And they ... questioned with one another what the rising from the dead should mean (Mark 9:10).

When I am getting ready to reason with a man, I spend one-third of my time thinking about myself and what I am going to say and two-third about him and what he is going to say (Abraham Lincoln).

Receive one another:

Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God (Rom 15:7).

Singer John Charles Thomas, at age sixty-six wrote to syndicated columnist

Abigail Van Buren: "I am presently completing the second year of a three-year survey on the hospitality or lack of it in churches. To date, of the 195 churches I have visited, I was spoken to in only one by someone other than an official greeter and that was to ask me to move my feet."

Remembering:

[Therefore the name of it was] Mizpah; for he said, The LORD watch between me and thee, when we are absent from one another (Gen 31:49).

And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom (Luke 23:42).

Respect one another and think of others, other than yourselves:

And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die. (2 Ki 7:3).

For the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us (2 Ki 7:6).

And when these lepers came to the uttermost part of the camp, they went into one tent, and did eat and drink, and carried thence silver, and gold, and raiment, and went and hid it; and came again, and entered into another tent, and carried thence also, and went and hid it (2 Ki 7:8).

Then they said one to another, We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household (2 Ki 7:9).

I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality (1 Tim 5:21).

Same mind:

Be of the same mind toward one another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits (Rom 12:16).

Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison (Matthew 5:25).

Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven (Matthew 18:19).

Serve:

If we fully comprehended the brevity of life, our greatest desire would be to please God and to serve one another (James C Dobson, 1936-).

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another (Gal 5:13).

If you were to visit Paris, you could see the statues of two men, both named Louis. The first is of Louis XIV, France's absolute monarch, who is remembered today chiefly for his exclamation, "I am the State." He represents one of the supreme achievements of greatness through power. His philosophy of life was that the whole nation and the world, insofar as he could compel it, should serve him.

A few blocks away is a less pretentious statue. There is no uniform on this figure carved in stone, no badge of office, no sword, no crown. It is a memorial to Louis Pasteur, the servant of humanity and servant of God. His life of unselfish, devoted research conferred immeasurable benefits upon all humanity in the years to come through overcoming disease and suffering.

The statue of the monarch is nothing more than a piece of sculpture; the statue of Pasteur is a shrine where pilgrims from all over the world pay grateful homage. It is the uncrowned servant of mankind who wears the real crown of

men's love and honour.

As you look back, would you rather be remembered as Louis XIV who became supreme ruler of France and now has just a statue to commemorate him or Louis Pasteur who is remembered for his attitude to serve one another?

Shared responsibility:

An arch consists of two weaknesses, which leaning against one another make a strength (Leonardo da Vinci).

And they said to one another, We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us (Gen 42:21).

The story is told of a heavy bronze bell that had sunk into a river in China. The efforts of various engineers to raise it had been of no avail. At last a clever native priest asked permission to make the attempt on the condition that the bell should be given to his temple. He then had his assistants gather an immense number of bamboo rods. These are hollow, light, and practically unsinkable. They were taken down by divers, one by one, and fastened to the bell. After many thousands of them had been thus fastened, it was noticed that the bell began to move, and, when the last one had been added, the buoyancy of the accumulated rods was so great that they actually lifted the enormous mass of bronze to the surface. You may think your bamboo rod is too small and light to make any difference, but it is necessary in God's sight to help in lifting souls to God and to lend strength to the others.

An Australian native preacher went to a little church in the bush to preach. It was dusk when he arrived, the place was without light, and he wondered what to do about it. Presently, he saw twinkling lights moving about through the bush. His congregation was arriving. Each person carried a hurricane lamp, and as they came in they placed their lamps upon a shelf around the chapel wall. Soon the whole place was flooded with light. Each had contributed light that had dispelled the darkness.

Sharing gifts:

As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor (Esther 9:22).

Once upon a time there was a wise old miser who lived in a cave behind a waterfall. As he neared the end of his life, he sent word into the nearby town that whoever could carry a clean milk-jug under the waterfall without getting water in it would have it filled with gold. The next day, many townsfolk lined up at the waterfall with their milk-jugs. Many carried them in bags, but as the miser could not see the jug passing under the waterfall they got no gold. Others carried them upside-down, but an upside-down jug could hold no gold either. One smart person had filled his jug with water and frozen it overnight so that no water from the waterfall could land in the jug. But a jug with frozen water couldn't hold gold. Another had filled his with axle grease but it could not be filled with gold as it was no longer clean. However one person had filled his jug with sweet clean honey. When he came through the waterfall no water could enter the jug, and as the gold was poured in, sweet honey overflowed for others to share and enjoy.

Speak joyously:

And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? (Luke 24:17). And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? (Vs32).

No man is an island. No man stands alone. Each man's grief is grief to me. Each man's joy is my own (John Donne).

Speak not evil:

Speak not evil of one another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge (James 4:11).

A lot of molehills become mountains when someone adds a little dirt (Anon.).

He that filches from me my good name, / Robs me of that which not enriches him, / And makes me poor indeed (William Shakespeare, 1564-1616).

Subjection and submission:

The basis of submission is submitting ourselves to one another, or "giving way" to one another. Submission is giving way to somebody else (Jill Briscoe).

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject to one another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble (1 Pet 5:5).

The captain of the ship looked into the dark night and saw faint lights in the distance. Immediately he told his signalman to send a message: "Alter your course 10 degrees south." Promptly a return message was received: "Alter your course 10 degrees north."

The captain was angered; his command had been ignored. So he sent a second message: "Alter your course 10 degrees south, I am the captain!" Soon another message was received: "Alter your course 10 degrees north, I am a seaman third class Jones."

Immediately the captain sent a third message, knowing the fear it would evoke: "Alter your course 10 degrees south, I am a battleship." Then the reply came: "Alter your course 10 degrees north, I am a lighthouse" (Paul Aiello, Jr).

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God (Eph 5:21).

Teaching and admonishing:

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord (Col 3:16).

Not only are we the freest of kings, we are also priests forever, which is far more excellent than being kings, for as priests we are worthy to appear before God to pray for others and to teach one another divine things (Martin Luther).

The teacher is like the candle which lights others in consuming itself (Italian Proverb).

'Tis education forms the common mind / As the twig is bent the tree's inclined (Alexander Pope, 1688-1744).

Worshipping together:

And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory (Isa 6:3).

Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe" (Heb 12:28).

"And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me", saith the Lord (Isaiah 66:23).

A final word:

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen" (1 Peter 4:10-11).

