

There are many scriptures in the New Testament which use the phrase 'one another'. There are all scriptures which show us how to deal with one another, with the practical aspects of loving each other as a large spiritual family. Think about how we are to love one another. John 13:34-35: 'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.' 1 John 4:11-12, 'Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.'

We must also edify, encourage, and build up each other. Romans 4:19, 'Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify one another.' Hebrews 10:24, 'and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.'

Then we must serve one another. John 13:14, 'If I, then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.' Galatians 5:13, 'For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be servants of one another.' Galatians 6:2, 'Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.' It is difficult sometimes to know exactly how we can serve each other. We must simply be ready to serve, and take advantage of opportunities that come our way. We must put others above us; we must be humble and subject to each other. Romans 12:10, 'love one another with brotherly affection, outdo one another in showing honor'. Ephesians 5:21, 'Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ'. 1 Peter 5:5, '... Clothes yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another.' We must give honor to others, fading into the background.

We must also have patience with one another. Colossians 3:12-13, 'Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive.' The word 'long-suffering' shows practically what we must be able to do.

The latter part of Colossians 3:13 mentions forgiving one another. Ephesians 4:32, 'and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.' It is so important to be accepted, and if we are to be accepted, then people must overlook our faults. We must likewise overlook the faults of others.

Ephesians 4:32 also talks about being 'kind to one another'. In addition to that scripture, we read 1 Corinthians 12:25, '... the members may have the same care for one another', and 1 Peter 4:9, 'Practice hospitality ungrudgingly to one another'. We must take people in when needed; we must be generous and kind.

The next topic has to do with our communication with each other, especially teaching. Colossians 3:16, 'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.' We must also speak 'about' each other. James 5:16, 'Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.' Praying for one another is extremely important, for it emphasizes our love and care for one another. We should do this all of the time, too, not just when people are sick. We must not speak evil of one another. James 4:11, 'Do not speak evil against one another, brethren. He that speaks evil against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law.'

Another topic of concern is that of being at peace with one another. Romans 15:5, 'May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another. In accord with Christ Jesus.' Galatians 5:26, 'Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another.' We must live together in peace, even when we don't have the same way of doing everything.

We should want to be with each other, preferring fellow Christians over others. In 1 John 1:7 we read, 'but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.' We must feel a part of one another, as we mentioned in the beginning, being knit together in love. This is indeed the greatest family that can be.

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