

ONE ANOTHERING
ROMANS 12:1-5

For some people, even some of you here, the very idea of “one anothering” is a big step of faith. You are not wired that way.

You may be an introvert by nature and it’s hard to get traction with others.

You may have had some difficult experiences and you’ve put up barriers to protect yourself.

You are “a rock, an island” – Simon and Garfunkel.

Lyrics I AM A ROCK – Paul Simon

A winter's day

In a deep and dark

December

I am alone

Gazing from my window to the streets below

On a freshly fallen silent shroud of snow

I am a rock

I am an island

I've built walls

A fortress deep and mighty

That none may penetrate

I have no need of friendship, friendship causes pain

It's laughter and it's loving I disdain

I am a rock

I am an island

Don't talk of love

But I've heard the words before

It's sleeping in my memory

I won't disturb the slumber of feelings that have died

If I never loved, I never would have cried

I am a rock

I am an island

I have my books

And my poetry to protect me

I am shielded in my armor

Hiding in my room, safe within my womb

I touch no one and no one touches me

I am a rock

I am an island

And a rock feels no pain;

And an island never cries

IS THAT YOU?

Have you built your walls where no one can penetrate?

Maybe you got burned “by Christians” in the past so you’re keeping people at arm’s length.

Maybe you’re like Scrooge in the Musical version and your theme song is “I hate People”. If that’s the case then you need to rethink your own relationship with God.

Most of the ONE ANOTHERING passages and traits are counter-intuitive, i.e. they go against the grain of our own hearts and our culture. BUT WE can't be THE BODY OF Christ we are called to be if we don't make room for One Anothering.

What is the opposite to being "A ROCK; AN ISLAND"?

-ROMANS 12:1-5

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship*. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. 4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another

What is the opposite to being "A ROCK; AN ISLAND"?

THE realization and embrace of the biblical truth that we are members of one another.

THIS MAY BE YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE.

Before we dive in to the list of One Anothers, I want to share something I read early last week that relates to the overall topic in a backdoor sort of way. It's an article from Thom Rainer (church consultant) on "sick churches".

As I read the article I realized that one reason why these churches are sick is because they probably lacked the cultural DNA of ONE ANOTHERING.

SEVEN PERSONALITY TYPES OF SICK CHURCHES

The Denier. A church's worship attendance had declined by over 60 percent the past ten years, but most of the members I interviewed told me the church was fine. That church will be "fine" all the way to its closing.

The Deflector. In these churches you hear constant complaints about what others outside the church are doing wrong. It's the denomination's fault. It's the culture's fault. It's the young people's fault. And, too many times, it's always the pastor's fault. Thus the church's pattern is a series of short-term pastorates.

The Cool Kid. These churches are rarely viewed as sick. They are typically growing numerically, and often are seen as the cool church in town. But their growth is largely tied to a single ministry, like bus ministries of the past, or to a charismatic leader. When the charismatic leader or the hot ministry goes away, the church declines dramatically. This illness is particularly dangerous because of its superficial appearance of robust health.

The Nostalgic. The nostalgic church lives in the past. It longs for "Brother Bill," the pastor of thirty years ago. The members are convinced if they would just return to music styles and programs of the past, everything would be fine. These churches grow increasingly unhealthy because they exert so much effort to resist change.

The Street Fighter. These churches are downright mean. Their business meetings are more like a street fight. Bullies and critics often control the church, while the majority of the members remain silent in cowardly fear. The healthier members exit quickly, exacerbating the sickness of the mean church.

The Autopilot. These churches do things they way they've always done them because they know of no other way. They don't necessarily resist change, because they don't even see the need for change. As long as we do the church the way we did it in 1974, we will be fine.

The Living Dead

. There are few active members left in these churches. Most of the members recognize the church is sick, because the worship center is 83 percent vacant. Often the remaining members become desperate and somewhat open to change. Unfortunately, it is usually too late to do anything. The church is on the precipice of death.

Those are some institutional obstacles to being a church that is seeking to meet people where they are to lead them in becoming Mature and Equipped followers of Christ.

If we are growing as Followers of Jesus, we'll be growing in the path of ONE ANOTHERING. There are also personal or individual obstacles that ARE in our way as well.

For some people, even some of you here, the very idea of "one anothering" is a big step of faith. You are not wired that way.

Some of the ONE ANOTHERING passages and traits are counter-intuitive, i.e. they go against the grain of our own hearts and in ways of our culture.

They rub us the wrong way:

There are over 90 one another passages, with at least 45 different one anothering commands. The command to "love one another" is found about 15 times, in various ways. It is hard to get an exact count because different translations use different English words for the same Greek word.

It doesn't really matter the exact count because if we cut the list to just 2-3 we all fall short. Just take "love one another" and actually apply it to our lives and it would change marriages, families, churches, communities, and nations.

That there are over 45 different commands shows us how deeply ingrained living life with "one another" is in the Bible.

The following insights from Andy Stanley are true...

The primary activity of the church was one-anothering one another. – Andy Stanley

This means that of all the things we do, we should be VERY INTENTIONAL about One Anothering.

The second quote quote is...

When everyone is sitting in rows...you can't do any one anothers. – Andy Stanley

If the majority of the church's focus is herding people into rows we will not have an abundance of opportunities to "be the church." When we're intentional about guiding the church towards Biblical community we create more space for the one anothers. It's so much easier to do one-anothering in circles than rows.

ONE ANOTHERING is a call to stop "going" to church, so that we can "be the church". – Josh Daffern
Church is not a service you attend, it's a lifestyle you live. Church is not bricks and mortar, it's flesh and souls. <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/newwineskins/stop-going-to-church/>

Here is a list of many of the one another's of the New Testament. As I Read them think of how they can play out in your life. Realistically they will be lived out in some sort of small group:

That is why our community groups will be launching on August 13th.

As you hear these remember **that One Anothering is SOMEONE WE MEET before it is something we do.** Jesus lives these realities in his life.

The "One Others" of the New Testament- This makes a good prayer list!!

1. "...Be at peace with each other." (Mark 9:50)
2. Reprove and restore Matt 18
3. Love Matt 22:35
4. Practice justice, mercy and faithfulness Matt 23:23ff
5. Disciple Matt 28:18ff
6. "...Serve - Wash one another's feet." (John 13:14)
7. . "...Love one another..." (John 13:34. "...Love one another..." (John 13:34)
8. "...Love one another..." (John 13:35)
9. . "...Love one another..." (John 15:12)
10. "...Love one another" (John 15:17)
11. Learn, share, worship with Acts 2
12. Unite in heart Acts 4:32ff
13. Care for Acts 6:1ff
14. Encourage Acts 11:22ff
15. Mutually encourage Rom 1:11
16. Members of one another Rom 12:3-8
17. "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love..." (Romans 12:10)
18. . "...Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10)
19. . "Live in harmony with one another..." (Romans 12:16)
20. Rejoice with/ weep with Rom 12:15
21. "...Love one another..." (Romans 13:8)
22. "...Stop passing judgment on one another." (Romans 14:13)
23. "Bear with, please one another, build up, Unite with, Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you..." (Romans 15:7)
24. . "...Instruct one another." (Romans 15:14)
25. . "Greet one another with a holy kiss..." (Romans 16:16)
26. Agree with 1 Cor 1:10
27. Don't take pride in one person over another 1 Cor 4:6
28. See the good for one another 1 Cor 10:24
29. "...When you come together to eat, wait for each other." (I Cor. 11:33)
30. "...Members of one another; Have equal concern for each other. Suffer with; rejoice with" (I Corinthians 12:4-26))
31. Love 1 Cor 13
32. Strengthen, encourage, and comfort 1 Cor 14:1-3
33. "...Greet one another with a holy kiss." (I Corinthians 16:20)
34. Comfort 2 Cor 1:3ff
35. Forgive 2 Cor 2:7ff
36. Live for 2 Cor 5:14ff
37. . "Greet one another with a holy kiss." (II Corinthians 13:12)
38. "...Serve one another in love." (Galatians 5:13)

39. . “If you keep on biting and devouring each other...you will be destroyed by each other.” (Galatians 5:15)
40. . “Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.” (Galatians 5:26)
41. . “Carry each other’s burdens...” (Galatians 6:2)
42. “...Be patient, bearing with one another in love.” (Ephesians 4:2)
43. Equip Eph 4:11ff
44. Speak truth Eph 4:25
45. . “Be kind and compassionate to one another...” (Ephesians 4:32)
46. “...Forgiving each other...” (Ephesians 4:32)
47. “Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.” (Ephesians 5:19)
48. “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” (Ephesians 5:21)
49. “...In humility consider others better than yourselves.” (Philippians 2:3)
50. Col 1:25 – 2:2 Admonish and teach
51. . “Do not lie to each other...” (Colossians 3:9)
52. . “Bear with each other...” (Colossians 3:13)
53. “...Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another.” (Colossians 3:13)
54. “Teach...[one another]” (Colossians 3:16)
55. “...Admonish one another (Colossians 3:16)
56. . “...Make your love increase and overflow for each other.” (I Thessalonians 3:12)
57. . “...Love each other.” (I Thessalonians 4:9)
58. . “...Encourage each other...” (I Thessalonians 4:18)
59. . “...Encourage each other...” I Thessalonians 5:11)
60. . “...Build each other up...” (I Thessalonians 5:11)
61. 1 Thessalonians 5:13—Live in peace with one another.
62. 1 Thessalonians 5:14—Urge, warn, encourage, help, and be patient with one another. 1 Thessalonians 5:15—Be kind to each other.
63. 2 Thessalonians 1:3—Love one another.
64. 2 Thessalonians 3:15—Warn one another as brothers.
65. 1 Timothy 5:20—Rebuke one another.
66. 2 Timothy 2:2—Disciple and teach one another.
67. 2 Timothy 2:22-26—Gently instruct one another in kindness.
68. 2 Timothy 3:16-17—Teach, rebuke, correct, and train one another.
69. 2 Timothy 4:1-8—Preach, correct, rebuke, encourage, and carefully instruct one another.
70. Titus 1:6-11—Encourage one another by sound doctrine.
71. Titus 2:1-15—Mentor one another
72. “Exhort one another daily...” Hebrews 3:13)
73. . “...Spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” (Hebrews 10:24)
74. . “...Encourage one another.” (Hebrews 10:25)
75. Keep on loving each other as brothers. Hebrews 13:1—
76. —Love one another James 2:8
77. . “...Do not slander one another.” (James 4:11)
78. . “Don’t grumble against each other...” (James 5:9)
79. . “Confess your sins to each other...” (James 5:16)
80. . “...Pray for each other.” (James 5:16)
81. —Love one another deeply from the heart 1 Peter 1:22
82. . “be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, humble in spirit with one another...” (I Peter 3:8)
83. ...Love each other deeply...” (I Peter 4:8)
84. . “Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.” (I Peter 4:9)
85. . “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others...” (I Peter 4:10)
86. . “...Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another...” (I Peter 5:5)
87. . “Greet one another with a kiss of love.” (I Peter 5:14)

88. . “...Love one another.” (I John 3:11, 23 4:7, 11,12; 2 Jn 5)
89. “...Love one another.” (I John 3:23)
90. “...Love one another.” (I John 4:7)
91. “...Love one another.” (I John 4:11)
92. “...Love one another.” (I John 4:12)
93. “...Love one another.” (II John 5)

(List compiled from material from Carl George and Robert Kellemen)

Amen, let's close in prayer.

It leaves us overwhelmed, right.

If you know Christ, then his Holy Spirit is in your heart, and He is very motivated to seeing these fleshed out in this Christian community. He is the empowering agent, but it can only happen if we put ourselves in the environments where we are in connection with One Another.

If you choose NOT to be in some kind of small group, or NOT to be in Sunday School (as teacher or participant), then you are taking yourself out of the environments where ONE ANOTHERING is most likely to happen.

Passing the Torch = One Anothering – Model it to the next generation

YOU CAN'T ONE ANOTHER BY YOURSELF.

The one thing you CAN do by yourself in order to engage in One Anothering is DIE TO SELF.

Following Jesus will feel like dying

IT'S WHAT JESUS DID FOR US- He emptied Himself to make us one with Him and with one another.

God has not left us alone to do this in our own power. Don't try this at home or at church apart from the Holy Spirit.

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