

THE NEW TESTAMENT “ONE ANOTHERS”

-J.I. Moog

Directed by Jesus and inspired by the Holy Spirit, the New Testament authors wrote to the early churches instructing them on how to: live in unity, enjoy God and remain faithful to The Great Commandment (Matt 22:36-42), The “New” Commandment (John 13:34,35) and The Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20).

The following commands, peppered throughout the New Testament, are directives concerning Christian conduct within a faith-family. Christians, living in *Koinonia (fellowship / community)*, were faithful to these instructions regarding communal, relational-care and, as a result, they provided the world with a picture of the gospel-love of Jesus Christ. I encourage VBC Small Groups to regularly review these commands in order to faithfully “spur one another on toward love” (Heb 10:24).

Before you read through the New Testament “One Others” keep in mind these three challenges:

1. LET THE “ONE ANOTHERS” BE JUST A STARTING POINT.

The list of “One Others” below is not an exhaustive list of relational commands. It highlights scriptures that have the words: “*one another*” or “*each other*.” There are many more passages in scripture, not listed below, that give further instructions and expound on the biblical principle of Christian community and our need for one another.

2. KEEP THE “ONE ANOTHERS” IN CONTEXT.

Although it is interesting and helpful to see the “One Another” verses compiled together, it is always best to study and interpret them in the individual and intended context.

3. PUT THE “ONE ANOTHERS” INTO PRACTICE WITH YOUR *SMALL GROUP.

God has created us as relational beings that thrive in the context of biblical community. In order to be spiritually healthy we must be committed to fostering godly, Christ-centered relationships where we can freely *put into practice* (Phil 4:9) the commands and teachings of Jesus. With the New Testament “One Others” in mind Larry Osborne—(*Sticky Church*) writes,

“It’s a list of commands that are hard to fulfill in a large group setting. They are best fulfilled within the framework of close and accountable relationships similar to those found in a healthy small group.”

The “One Others” are not suggestions.

*See page 6 for suggestions on how to practice the “One Others” with your small group.

THE LIST OF “ONE ANOTHERS”

DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST ARE TO:

Love one another.

John 13:34-35: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 15:12-13: “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”

John 15:17: “This is my command: Love each other”

Romans 13:8: “Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.”

1 Thessalonians 4:9: “Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other.”

Hebrews 13:1: “Keep on loving each other as brothers.”

1 Peter 1:22: “Now the you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.”

1 Peter 4:8: “Above all, love each other deeply, for love covers over a multitude of sins.”

1 John 3:11 “This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love on another.”

1 John 3:23: “This is His command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.”

1 John 4:7: “Dear friends, let us love on another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.”

1 John 4:11-12: “Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us.”

2 John 1:5: “I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another.”

Be devoted to one another.

Romans 12:10: “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.”

Honor one another.

Romans 12:10: “Honor one another above yourselves.”

Live in harmony with one another.

Romans 12:16: “Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

1 Thessalonians 5:13: “Live in peace with each other.”

1 Peter 3:8: “All of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.”

Stop passing judgment on one another.

Romans 14:13: “Let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brothers way.”

Accept one another.

Romans 15:7: "Accept one another then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

Instruct one another.

Romans 15:14: "You yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct other."

Colossians 3:16: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."

Greet one another with a holy kiss.

Romans 16:6: "Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send greetings."
(See also 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Peter 5:14.)

Agree with one another.

1 Corinthians 1:10: "I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought."

Wait for each other.

1 Corinthians 11:33: "When you come together to eat, wait for each other."

Have equal concern for each other.

1 Corinthians 12:25 "...so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other."

Serve one another.

Galatians 5:13: "You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love."

Do not provoke or envy one another.

Galatians 5:26: "Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other."

Carry each other's burdens.

Galatians 6:2: "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Bear with one another.

Ephesians 4:2: "Be completely humble and gentle, bearing with one another in love."

Colossians 3:13: "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Be compassionate to one another.

Ephesians 4:32: "Be kind and compassionate to one another."

Forgive one another.

Ephesians 4:32: "...forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Colossians 3:13: "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

Ephesians 5:19: "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord."

Submit to one another.

Ephesians 5:21: "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

Do not lie to each other.

Colossians 3:9: "Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices."

Be in unity of mind with one another.

Philippians 2:1,2 “So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.”

Count others more significant.

Philippians 2:3 “Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.”

Look to the interests of each other.

Philippians 2:4 “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

Encourage one another.

1 Thessalonians 4:18: “Encourage each other with these words.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11: “Encourage on another.”

Hebrews 3:13: “Encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”

Hebrews 10:25: “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Build up each other.

1 Thessalonians 5:11: “Build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

Spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Hebrews 10:24: “Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”

Do not give up meeting together.

Hebrews 10:25: “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Do not slander one another.

James 4:11: “Do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it.”

Offer hospitality to one another.

1 Peter 4:9: “Offer hospitality toward one another without grumbling.”

Clothe yourself with humility toward one another.

1 Peter 5:5: “Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’”

Be kind to one another.

1 Thessalonians 5:15: “Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.”

Don’t grumble against one another.

James 5:9: “Don’t grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The judge is standing at the door!”

Confess your sins to each other.

James 5:16: “Confess your sins to each other.”

Pray for each other.

James 5:16: “Pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

THE NEW TESTAMENT “ONE ANOTHERS”

Quick Reference

- Love one another.
- Be devoted to one another.
- Honor one another.
- Live in harmony with one another.
- Stop passing judgment on one another.
- Accept one another.
- Instruct one another.
- Greet one another with a holy kiss.
- Agree with one another.
- Wait for each other.
- Have equal concern for each other.
- Serve one another.
- Do not provoke or envy one another.
- Carry each other’s burdens.
- Bear with one another.
- Be compassionate to one another.
- Forgive one another.
- Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.
- Submit to one another.
- Do not lie to each other.
- Be in unity of mind with one another.
- Count others more significant.
- Look to the interests of each other.
- Encourage one another.
- Build up each other.
- Spur one another on toward love and good deeds.
- Do not give up meeting together.
- Do not slander one another.
- Offer hospitality to one another.
- Clothe yourself with humility toward one another.
- Be kind to one another.
- Don’t grumble against one another.
- Confess your sins to each other.
- Pray for each other

John 13:34-35

John 15:12-13

John 15:17

Romans 12:10

Romans 12:10

Romans 12:16

Romans 13:8

Romans 14:13

Romans 15:7

Romans 15:14

Romans 16:6

1 Corinthians 1:10

1 Corinthians 11:33

1 Corinthians 12:25

Galatians 5:13

Galatians 5:26

Galatians 6:2

Ephesians 4:2

Ephesians 4:32

Ephesians 4:32

Ephesians 5:19

Ephesians 5:21

Philippians 2:1,2

Philippians 2:3

Philippians 2:4

Colossians 3:9

Colossians 3:13

Colossians 3:16

1 Thessalonians 4:9

1 Thessalonians 4:18

1 Thessalonians 5:11

1 Thessalonians 5:13

1 Thessalonians 5:15

Hebrews 3:13

Hebrews 10:25

Hebrews 10:24

Hebrews 13:1

James 4:11

James 5:9

James 5:16

1 Peter 1:22:

1 Peter 3:8

1 Peter 4:8

1 Peter 4:9

1 Peter 5:5

2 John 1:5

1 John 3:11

1 John 3:23

1 John 4:7

1 John 4:11-12



VBC SMALL GROUPS MINISTRY_RESOURCES.

THE NEW TESTAMENT “ONE ANOTHERS”

In Your VBC Small Group

THREE WAYS TO USE THE “ONE ANOTHERS” IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:

1. Read them together.
2. Pick a few and study them in their context.
3. Plan to implement one or two (in a practical, specific & measurable way) during the next week. Share the experience with your small group.

QUESTIONS

1. What other passages of scripture affirm these “One Others”? (see Phil 2)
2. Can you say that you have put into practice (at least once) every single one of these commands?
3. Which ones are most natural for you?
4. Which ones are the most difficult to be obedient to?
5. How have you grown in view of these commands?
6. Which ones are the most encouraging to you?
7. How did Christ set an example for each of these commands? How does his prayer for the disciples and all future believers reflect his heart for functioning as a spiritual family? (see Jn 17)
8. How are these commands vital to biblical community? How do we make them part of daily living?
9. How is your obedience and faithfulness to these commands connected to your ability to witness to unbelievers? (see Jn 13:34,35)
10. How can we be faithful to these commands in a way that keeps Christ central?



VBC SMALL GROUPS MINISTRY RESOURCES.