



CREATING A CARING CONGREGATION

(Practicing the "One Anothers" of the Bible)

"Forbearing One Another"

Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Why is it beneficial for Christians to study the one anothers of the bible? How would your relationships change if you committed to being a doer of the word of God as it relates to the one anothers of the bible? (Read James 1:22-25) Imagine practicing the one anothers in your home and local church congregation. Will you commit to do your part of one another relationships?

1. Tonight's lesson focuses on relationships within the body of Christ, or Christian community. The emphasis moves from our beliefs to our behavior. Based upon what I profess as Christian doctrine or teaching, what should be my lifestyle response? Notice the immediate context of Ephesians 4:2 which is Ephesians 4:1-13. Notice the immediate context of Colossians 3:13 which is Colossians 3:12-17. The emphasis is on the way Christians are to relate to each other in the Christian community.
2. Think about the difficulties and challenges of being involved with a group of people. Do you believe the Christian community can face the same challenges? Have you faced any the same challenges? Do you expect to face more challenging relationships in the local church? Are you prepared to apply the word of God the next time you face a difficult relationship in the congregation or at home with other Christians?
3. Christians are commanded in Colossians 3:13 to "forbear one another." The New Living Translation translates, "make allowances for each other's faults." The Amplified Version translates, "bearing graciously with one another."
4. Notice in Ephesians 4:2 Paul expands the phrase to include love. The New American Standard translates it, "showing tolerance for one another in love". Christian love should allow us to tolerate other Christians.

5. There is a limit to the tolerance Christians should have for other Christians. Jesus teaches church discipline which can lead to a withdrawal of fellowship according to Matthew 18:15-17. The bible also teaches Christians to withdraw from unrepentant Christians in 1 Corinthians 5:9-13. Christians must also forgive and receive back into the fellowship a repentant believer who is willing to change their behavior according to 2 Corinthians 2:1-11. We are to warn unruly believers in the church according to 1 Thessalonians 5:14. The young pastor Titus received instruction from Paul to not tolerate false teachers in the church according to Titus 1:10-16. Paul gives additional counsel for not tolerating false teachers in Titus 3:9-11.
6. Consider these suggestions for doing the word of God that we studied in this lesson.
 - What challenging Christian relationships do you have? What can you do to be tolerant in a biblically appropriate way?
 - Have you considered that other Christians may sometimes find it challenging to be in relationships with you? Do you seek to be more of an asset than liability in your Christian relationships?
 - Counsel a new Christian about the need to understand Christian immaturity and the need to tolerate some things they don't like while people are growing.
 - Reflect upon the Holy Spirit's ministry in changing the beliefs and behaviors of Christians.
 - Reflect upon how you developed your concept of how the Christian community should be. How do you explain the tension between what the Christian community is and what it should be.
 - Pray for your spiritual growth and the growth of other Christians as you learn to tolerate immaturity in others as they tolerate your immaturity in areas of Christian belief and behavior as well.
 - Pray about when it is time to stop tolerating non-Christian behavior and confront the Christian.
 - Thank God that there are people in your life who love you enough to tolerate you while God changes you.