

Our Relational 'Core Value'

Intro:

*** In Jn 15 Jesus clearly calls all who abide in Him to be members of a _____ spiritual community.

I. The basis for being members of a _____ spiritual community is the teaching & authority of _____. (Why be part of a church? ... because _____ says so).

II. The source for being members of a _____ spiritual community is the _____ of God. (_____ does church come from? ... from the nature of God)

III. The practical _____ for being members of a loving spiritual community is loving others like _____ has loved us. (What should church look like? The love of _____)

IV. The _____ for being members of a loving spiritual community is our treasuring of God's _____ for us in Christ. (How are we able to do this? By _____ in Jesus)

Concl:

Digging Deeper in the NT “One Another” Commands

Or What is “church” supposed to feel like & look like - relationally?

For years I have been amazed & rebuked & encouraged & instructed by the wide variety of commands in the NT that include the words “One Another”. The majority of these are in the Apostle’s instructions to the churches. Hence these “one anothers” are at the heart of what the Apostles understand “fellowship”/ “church fellowship”/ to be about. Do we want to know what “the fellowship of the saints” should be like – then read & reflect on & by the Spirit put into practice the “one-anothers”. In light of Jesus’ teaching in Jn 15 I see all of these “one anothers” as the explanation of what it means to “love one another”. Clearly love is the supreme & greatest virtue from which all others flow (1 Cor 13 & Mk 12:28-34). Therefore by meditating on all the different kinds of “one anothers” we learn more of what it means to love.

I found **39** verses that contain positive “one another” commands (I also include 9 verses that contain negative “one another commands”). These 39 verses contain **48** positive one another commands. When the repeated commands are grouped together I come up with 27 different positive “one another” commands. The context of the commands often gives instructions about why & how to live in this *new covenant* way of relating to one another. The context also often suggests a consequence for this way of relating. In addition the verse often suggests the theological cause that fuels this new way of living as well as the good places that this kind of fellowship takes us. Here are the verses in which these commands are found. Might you be helped & enjoy reading & reflecting on these verses:

Positive “one anothers” include:

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| Mark 9:50 | John 13:34-35 | John 15:12 | John 15:17 | Romans 12:10 |
| Romans 12:16 | Romans 15:5 | Romans 15:7 | Romans 15:14 | Romans 16:16 |
| 1 Cor. 11:33 | 1 Cor. 12:25 | 1 Cor. 16:20 | 2 Cor. 13:11-12 | Galatians 5:13 |
| Ephes. 4:2 | Ephes. 4:32 | Ephes. 5:19 | Ephes. 5:21 | Col. 3:13 |
| Col. 3:16 | 1 Thes. 3:12 | 1 Thes. 4:9 | 1 Thes. 4:18 | 1 Thes. 5:11 |
| 1 Thes. 5:15 | 2 Thes. 1:3 | Hebrews 3:13 | Heb 10:24-25 | James 5:16. |
| 1 Peter 1:22 | 1 Peter 4:8-10 | 1 Peter 5:5 | 1 Peter 5:14 | 1 John 3:11 |
| 1 John 3:23 | 1 John 4:7 | 1 John 4:11-12 | 2 John 1:5 | |

Negative “one anothers” include:

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| Romans 14:13 | 1 Cor. 6:7 | 1 Cor. 7:5 | 2 Cor. 10:12 | Galatians 5:15 |
| Galatians 5:26 | James 4:11 | James 5:9 | | |