

## The Believer's Relationship with Other Believers

### Introduction

- A. When an individual becomes a Christian, through receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, that person is not only brought into a relationship with God but with other Christians as well. He is made a member of the church.
- B. Our relationship with other believers is an important one. We now have the ability to bring spiritual help to others. We are called "stewards of the grace of God" (I Peter 4:10) and are related to one another as the members of the body (I Cor. 12).

#### I. Believers Are to Love One Another, John 13:34,35.

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another, as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Observation: There are at least three things we must do to love a person. We must recognize them as a person, give them rightful place in our life, and do what is right by them. When we choose to do this, trusting God, and then put it into practice, we are obeying one of the most important commands of the Bible. No person can succeed in life without love.

#### II. Believers Are to Humbly Serve One Another, John 13:34.

If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

Observation: At the Last Supper the Lord Jesus demonstrated His love for His Disciples by washing their feet. This action of performing humble service for others is presented to us as one of those things reinforced with the word "ought". We are often too proud to obey this exhortation.

#### III. Believers Are to Honor One Another, Romans 12:10,16.

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another . . . Be of the same mind one toward another . . . .

Observation: These verses simply tell us to put the other person before ourselves and to live in harmony with one another. As sinners we too often demand first place - we must have our own way - we live without considering the needs or feelings of others. As believers we must seek the comfort, advancement and the fellowship of other believers.

#### IV. Believers Are Not to Judge but Receive One Another, Romans 14:13;15:7.

Let us not therefore judge one another any more . . . Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.

Observation: We may not play God by passing judgment on the actions of other believers. We do not know all the facts. We must accept one another as Jesus Christ has received us.

V. Believers Are to Bear the Burdens of One Another, Galatians 6:2.

Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Observation: This is one way we can express our love and care for other believers. We can help a believer with his burden through prayer, admonishing, teaching, practical help, giving, our presence, giving money and in many other ways. When we do so we are expressing love and fulfilling the law of Jesus Christ (James 2:8).

VI. Believers Are to Be Kind and Forgiving to One Another, Ephesians 4:32.

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Observation: Many lives have been destroyed through the bearing of a grudge and the bitterness which results. We must choose by faith and love to forgive people. If we do not it will limit our fellowship with God. We must be kind toward others so they will not have a bitter attitude toward us.

VII. Believers Are to Comfort and Edify One Another, I Thess. 5:11.

Wherefore comfort yourselves together and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Observation: This is a practical application of the principle of love. All believers need to be comforted, encouraged, and edified. The most important way of doing this is to use the Scripture by way of a practical application. II Cor. 1:3,4 give us a very important exhortation in this regard.

VIII. Believers Are to Exhort One Another, Hebrews 3:13.

But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Observation: Believers need one another for many reasons. In this verse we are taught that by exhorting one another we can be kept from the effects of sin. Too often we find ourselves in a situation where we have lost discernment and need someone to bring out the truth. This does not mean we are to pry, to judge, to criticize, to gossip or to push into the life of another with a holier-than-thou attitude.

IX. Believers Are to Pray for One Another, James 5:16.

Confess your faults one to another and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Observation: This is one of the most important things we can do for one another. The greatest promises in the Bible are related to prayer. We must learn to claim the will of God for other Christians (I John 5:14,15). We all need the prayers of one another.

Conclusion: When we fail to rightly respond to one another we limit our fellowship with God.