



One Anothering

By Jeff Bedwell on March 24, 2021

TODAY'S READING: 1 Thessalonians 5

We are called to cultivate our relationship with God by cultivating our relationships with one another. The New Testament knows nothing of "Lone Ranger" followers of Jesus Christ who are disconnected from the body of Christ and uninvolved in the lives of others.

Especially considering the "day of the Lord" (vv. 1-10), which is a certainty to come but the exact timing of which we will not fully know, we are to be involved in one another's lives. We are to "encourage one another" and "build one another up" (vs 11). Other places in the New Testament urge us to: "love one another" (John 5:12), "serve one another" (Galatians 5:13), "forgive one another" (Ephesians 4:32). The list could go on and on, we are called to a life of "one anothering"!

The question arises, how do we know how we should relate to another person at a specific time in our relationship with them? The answer is: It depends on what they need at the moment. Love of others can have a wide variety of expressions, depending on the need of the moment. Paul gives us some examples as he closes this letter.

Sometimes the need is to treat others with extra measures of respect and esteem (vv. 12-13). Sometimes love looks like "admonishing the idle." Sometimes it is about "encouraging the fainthearted." Other times it calls for "helping the weak." Whenever we are involved with others it calls forth the need for patience (vs. 14).

We also need to be open to receiving these various expressions of love from others. Yes, there are other people who will have to practice a great deal of patience in dealing with you too. Sometimes we are all challenging to love.

How are you "one anothering"? If you are going to actively cultivate your relationship with God, it calls for you to be actively involved in cultivating relationships with others. Yes, it sometimes gets messy and inconvenient, but it is one of God's primary ways of shaping our lives and our relationship with Him.

PRAYER: "Father, sometimes out of fear, hurt, selfishness, or busyness, I do not make space in my life for others beyond the most surface of levels. Teach me the value of "one anothering." Help me be open to the things You want to do in and through my life as I take a risk to involve myself deeply in the lives of others."

TOMORROW'S READING: 2 Thessalonians 1

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