

>>THE ONE-ANOTHERS OF GOD'S FAMILY

Our relationship with one another in the local congregation is not contractual but it's covenantal. Do you remember that? If there is anything I could really burn into your mind and heart out of this series is that God's love toward us and our love toward one another is not contractual; it's covenantal. What I mean by that is we're not saying, "I'm in if you do this," but rather, "I'm going to do this so we all might be in."

Covenantal relationship is not built upon... This is the illustration I've used. Vows in a wedding ceremony are covenantal language. Vows don't go, "If you're rich and healthy, I'm in." That's contractual. "You make money. You stay healthy. I stay with you." That's contractual. Rather, wedding vows are what? They're covenantal. "For better or for worse." Right? Regardless. "Richer or poorer, sickness and in health, I give myself to you."

That's covenantal, and that's God's relationship with his church. "I give myself to you." Our response: "We give ourselves to you." Therefore, the nature and basis of our relationship with one another is not contractual ("You'd better do these things for me") but rather covenantal ("Let me become this for us"). So we walked through. There are 59 "one anothers" in the New Testament. Love one another (17 times). Greet one another. Consider one another better than yourselves. Outdo one another in honor. Greet one another with a holy kiss. Some of you single dudes, don't be trying to flex that one today, all right?

On and on I could go here, but there are 59 "one anothers." What covenantal relationship looks like means we don't show up and go, "Somebody had better greet me. I haven't been greeted. The Bible says greet one another. No one said hi to me. Hey, I don't feel like I'm being outdone in honor." We don't show up that way. We show up and go, "I need to greet someone. I need to encourage someone. How can I outdo with honor?"

See, we always giggle at this, but it's so American evangelicalism. "I don't really like it. The parking...I don't like it. There's no place to get a mocha here. Are you serious? Is this church? What kind of church is this that a brother can't get a mocha and a parking spot close?" That's not our posture. Our posture is, "I'll park way out there." Our posture is, "Let me find someone to greet. Let me find someone to encourage." We don't show up demanding. We show up being for the good of the whole. If we could actually operate that way, how beautiful would it be?

Matt Chandler

(Pastor – The Village Church – Dallas, TX)

1. "...Be at peace with each other." (Mark 9:50)
2. "...Wash one another's feet." (John 13:14)
3. "...Love one another..." (John 13:34)
4. "...Love one another..." (John 13:34)
5. "...Love one another..." (John 13:35)
6. "...Love one another..." (John 15:12)
7. "...Love one another" (John 15:17)
8. "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love..." (Romans 12:10)
9. "...Honor one another above yourselves." (Romans 12:10)
10. "Live in harmony with one another..." (Romans 12:16)
11. "...Love one another..." (Romans 13:8)
12. "...Stop passing judgment on one another." (Romans 14:13)
13. "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you..." (Romans 15:7)
14. "...Instruct one another." (Romans 15:14)
15. "Greet one another with a holy kiss..." (Romans 16:16)
16. "...When you come together to eat, wait for each other." (I Cor. 11:33)
17. "...Have equal concern for each other." (I Corinthians 12:25)
18. "...Greet one another with a holy kiss." (I Corinthians 16:20)
19. "Greet one another with a holy kiss." (II Corinthians 13:12)
20. "...Serve one another in love." (Galatians 5:13)
21. "If you keep on biting and devouring each other...you will be destroyed by each other." (Galatians 5:15)
22. "Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other." (Galatians 5:26)
23. "Carry each other's burdens..." (Galatians 6:2)
24. "...Be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:2)
25. "Be kind and compassionate to one another..." (Ephesians 4:32)
26. "...Forgiving each other..." (Ephesians 4:32)
27. "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs." (Ephesians 5:19)
28. "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." (Ephesians 5:21)
29. "...In humility consider others better than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3)
30. "Do not lie to each other..." (Colossians 3:9)
31. "Bear with each other..." (Colossians 3:13)
32. "...Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another." (Colossians 3:13)
33. "Teach...[one another]" (Colossians 3:16)
34. "...Admonish one another (Colossians 3:16)
35. "...Make your love increase and overflow for each other." (I Thessalonians 3:12)
36. "...Love each other." (I Thessalonians 4:9)
37. "...Encourage each other..." (I Thessalonians 4:18)
38. "...Encourage each other..." (I Thessalonians 5:11)
39. "...Build each other up..." (I Thessalonians 5:11)
40. "Encourage one another daily..." (Hebrews 3:13)
41. "...Spur one another on toward love and good deeds." (Hebrews 10:24)
42. "...Encourage one another." (Hebrews 10:25)
43. "...Do not slander one another." (James 4:11)
44. "Don't grumble against each other..." (James 5:9)
45. "Confess your sins to each other..." (James 5:16)
46. "...Pray for each other." (James 5:16)
47. "...Love one another deeply, from the heart." (I Peter 3:8)
48. "...Live in harmony with one another..." (I Peter 3:8)
49. "...Love each other deeply..." (I Peter 4:8)
50. "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling." (I Peter 4:9)
51. "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others..." (I Peter 4:10)
52. "...Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another..." (I Peter 5:5)
53. "Greet one another with a kiss of love." (I Peter 5:14)
54. "...Love one another." (I John 3:11)
55. "...Love one another." (I John 3:23)
56. "...Love one another." (I John 4:7)
57. "...Love one another." (I John 4:11)
58. "...Love one another." (I John 4:12)
59. "...Love one another." (I John 5)

