



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 41, No. 6, February 10 , 2015 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / The Grow in Grace Newsletter is **a weekly Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church. It is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

AM I SHOUTING, "I DO NOT LOVE GOD!?"

"If anyone says, I LOVE GOD, and (detests, abominates) hates his brother, [in Christ], he is a liar; for he who DOES NOT love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God, Whom he has not seen!" (1 John 4:20, Amp)
"Welcome and RECEIVE (to your hearts) ONE ANOTHER, then, EVEN AS Christ has WELCOMED and RECEIVED you, for the glory of God."
(Romans 15:7, Amp)

Sadly, Christian homes and churches are too often PLAGUED with a spirit of REJECTION! Are there family members or CHURCH FAMILY members about whom you THINK and/or SAY words of rejection... You seek to AVOID them... You do not RECEIVE and WELCOME them in the same way that JESUS receives and welcomes all of His redeemed, but IMPERFECT children?

DO WE REALIZE HOW SERIOUS THIS MATTER REALLY IS?

I can sing, I can teach, I can preach, I can proclaim LOVE FOR JESUS, I can be full of smiles and laughter in a number of settings— however, WHEN 'So and So's' name or presence is brought up, I CLAM UP, FROWN, SPEW OUT REJECTION, etc, etc... and maybe my 'carefully selected' audience agrees, etc....

NEVERTHELESS, I HAVE JUST SHOUTED OUT, “**I DO NOT LOVE GOD!**”... **and** no matter how strongly I protest that I do love God—

I am a liar! (1 John 4:20)

JESUS: *“I give you a new commandment: that you should love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too should love one another. By this shall all [men] know that you are My disciples, if you love one another [if you keep on showing love among yourselves].” John 13:34-35, Amplified*

WHAT DOES LOVING ONE ANOTHER WITH THE LOVE OF CHRIST LOOK LIKE! _

1. “...Be at peace with each other” (Mark 9:50) 2. “...Wash **one** another’s feet” (John 13:14) 3. “...Love **one** another...” (John 13:34-35; John 15:12, 17) 4. “Love **one** another” (Romans 13:8)

5. “Be devoted to **one** another in brotherly love...” (Romans 12:10) 6. “Honor **one** another above yourselves” (Romans 12:10) 7. “Live in harmony with **one** another...” (Romans 12:16) 8. “...Stop passing judgment on **one** another” (Romans 14:13)

9. “Accept **one** another, then, just as Christ accepted you...” (Romans 15:7) 10. “...instruct **one** another” (Romans 15:4) 11. “Greet **one** another with a holy kiss...” (Romans 16:16; I Corinthians 16:20, 2 Cor. 13:12; I Thess. 5:26)

12. “...When you come together to eat, wait for each other” (I Corinthians 11:33) 13. “...Have equal concern for each other” (I Corinthians 12:25) 14. “...Serve **one** another in love” (II Corinthians 13:12) 15. “Carry each other’s burdens...” (Galatians 6:2)

16. “If you keep on biting and devouring each other...you will be destroyed by each other” (Galatians 5:15) 17. “Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other” (Galatians 5:26) 18. “...Be patient, bearing with **one** another in love” (Ephesians 4:2)

19. “Be kind and compassionate to **one** another...” (Ephesians 4:32) 20. “...forgiving each other...” (Ephesians 4:32) 21. “Speak to **one** another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs” (Ephesians 5:19)
22. “Submit to **one** another out of reverence for Christ” (Ephesians 5:21) 23. “...in humility consider others better than yourselves” (Philippians 2:3) 24. “Do not lie to each other...” (Colossians 3:9) 25. “Bear with each other...” (Colossians 3:13)
26. “...Forgive whatever grievances you may have against **one** another” (Colossians 3:13) 27. “Teach...[**one** another]” (Colossians 3:16) 28. “...admonish **one** another” (Colossians 3:16) 29. “...make your love increase and overflow for each other” (I Thessalonians 3:12)
30. “Encourage **one** another” (I Thessalonians 4:18, 5:11; Hebrews 10:25) 31. “...Build each other up...” (I Thessalonians 5:11) 32. “Encourage **one** another daily...” (Hebrews 3:13) 33. “Spur **one** another on toward love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:24)
34. “...Do not slander **one** another” (James 4:11) 35. “Don’t grumble against each other” (James 5:9) 36. “Confess your sins to each other...” (James 5:16) 37. “...Pray for each other” (James 5:16) 38. “...Love **one** another deeply, from the heart” (I Peter 1:22, 4:8) 39. “...Live in harmony with **one** another...” (I Peter 3:8)
40. “Greet **one** another with a kiss of love” (I Peter 5:14) 41. “Offer hospitality to **one** another without grumbling” (I Peter 4:9) 42. “Each **one** should use whatever gift he has received to serve others...” (I Peter 4:10) 43. “...Clothe yourselves with humility toward **one** another...” (I Peter 5:15) 44. “Love **one** another” (I John 3:11, 23, 4:7, 11, 12; II John 5)

Since the one anothers are so vital, let’s consider some Biblical principles as to the application of them!

1. RECEIVING must precede giving because we can’t give what we don’t have. *“... the love of God is shed abroad in [has flooded] our hearts by the Holy Spirit, which is given unto us.” (Romans 5:5) “... the fruit of the Spirit is love...” (Galatians 5:22) “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and*

knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." (1 John 4:7-8)

Thus, indeed, we must first receive [WE MUST BE BORN AGAIN!] before we can give, we are simply stewards of "**God's grace in its various forms**" (1 Peter 4:10).

We simply give to others what he has given to us. Understanding this principle of stewardship should strike a blow against our pride—for we are simply distributing God's resources, not our own. (1 Chronicles 29:9-14)

REALITY: Gross, continuing lovelessness in 'professing' Christians exposes counterfeit Christianity, for he that loves not knows not God! (1 John 4:7-8)

2. We are to give the One Anothers FREELY because we have freely received. "*Freely you have received, freely give*" (Matthew 10:8). The one anothers are to be given freely. We should never give with the expectation of a pay back or with a required condition. **We never pay for what we receive from God. We certainly have NEVER EARNED or DESERVED, God's love. So, let us give freely.**

3. We must give the One Anothers GENEROUSLY because we have generously received. Paul told Timothy, "*The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly*" (1 Timothy 1:14). God is not stingy, and neither should we be. He does not dispense his grace in small quantities, and neither should we. We have an unlimited supply of comfort from the God of all comfort. (2 Cor. 1:3-4) Let us dispense an enormous amount of comfort! Give love generously because you'll never run out.

The apostle John commented on the abundance of God's provision when he wrote, "*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us*" (1 John 3:1). Interestingly, we cannot really begin to comprehend all that God has given to us until we begin to give to others. In Philemon 6, the apostle Paul said, "*I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.*"

4. We must give the One Anothers INDISCRIMINATELY. "*My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism*" (James 2:1). What's the point? Don't be selective in which one anothers you give. Don't have the attitude that says, "I'll greet you, but

I'm not going to accept you. I'll admonish you, but I'm not going to encourage you." Minister all of the one anothers to any believer, as opportunity comes. **We must not have an attitude that says**, "I'll comfort my children, but not my spouse; or I'll accept people like me, but not anyone who is different.... I will receive this church member, but not that one."

WAKE UP: The problem with loving some family or church members is NOT their flaws, but the lovelessness in our own hearts. THEIR need is our opportunity to LOVE AS CHRIST LOVES. MOREOVER: Jesus reminds us, "**If you love those who love you, what do ye more than others. . . do not even pagans do that?**" (Matt. 5:43-47) In short, "Give all to all!" The Lord Jesus himself said: "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*" (Acts 20:35).

5. We are to relate to one another in the same way God has related to (loved) us. "*As I have loved you, so you must love one another*" (John 13:34). The command to "love others" was not new because part of the Jewish law was to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Lev. 19:18). It was the qualification to "*love others as I have loved you*" that was so radical. During his earthly ministry, Jesus thoroughly defined love for the first time.

It's not that Christ raised the bar so high that we could not participate. Rather, he actually made the message of love so plain that we cannot claim ignorance! He simply said, "**Do to others as I have done to you.**"

During Jesus' three years of earthly ministry, he basically just performed the one anothers. For the Bible says he went about "*doing good*", (Acts 10:38). What good did He do? **JESUS SHOWED THE WORLD HOW LOVE BEHAVES!** How wide spread was his ministry? If the many things Jesus did were all written down, "*Even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written*" (John 21:25).

And how did Jesus train his disciples? He called them just to "*be with him*" (Mark 3:14). Their curriculum simply consisted of hearing Jesus teach truth and then observing him demonstrating love. So for thirty-six months, day after day, they witnessed him ministering the one anothers to other people. They also experienced firsthand his ministry of the one anothers to them as individuals.

It's important to note that Jesus proclaimed the New Commandment at the end of his three-year ministry, not at the beginning.

Just hours before his death, Jesus said, "**Love one another as I have loved you.**" Basically, he was saying, "What you have seen me do for others and for you, go and do likewise." In response to this statement, Simon Peter might have thought, I remember when Jesus spoke encouraging words to the condemned, adulterous woman.

And although the disciples were shocked at Jesus' acceptance of the Samaritan woman (John 4:27), they must have been stirred deeply when they noticed the profound impact it had on her life and others. "*Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony*" (John 4:39).

But the powerful ministry of acceptance was really driven home when, through the course of three years, the disciples realized that Jesus accepted them just the way they were, with all their flaws and inconsistencies. **The disciples themselves were a shady group — uneducated fishermen, a tax collector, a betrayer** — men of fear and unbelief. And yet Jesus continually looked beyond their imperfections, accepted them as they were, continued to love them deeply, and he kept on doing sacrificial things so that they could become what they should become!

REALITY: This is why a spirit of REJECTION in believers against other believers is the most satanic, anti-christ attitude and behavior that can possibly be expressed!

In commanding us to love others, God is not asking us to do something that he has not already done. He is not asking us to give to others anything that he has not already given to us. It's also worthy to note that throughout the thirty-three years of Jesus' earthly life, he was simply sharing with the world the love that he was constantly receiving from his Father: "*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you*" (John 15:9).

Most important is the reality that Jesus did more than leave an example— HE has given the INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT to empower us for the life to which He has called us: Romans 5:5; John 14:12-20!

7. When we minister the one another to other people, we are ministering to Christ. "*God is not unjust; he will not forget your work*

and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them" (Hebrews 6:10). **When we love others, in a sense, we are loving Christ.** And when we minister to others, we are somehow actually ministering to Christ (Matthew 25:31-40); and when we treat other believers in an evil way, we are doing so to Jesus: Acts 9:4-5. In Christ, this mystery is based on the fact that Believers are the body of Christ. To love one another is to love Christ, and to neglect or harm one another is to neglect or harm Christ (Acts 9:4).

8. Let us also know this: The one anothers are the key to effective evangelism.

As we minister God's love to ONE ANOTHER in Christ and to others—some of the lost will be deeply touched and drawn to the source of so great a love: "*All men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another*" (John 13:35). **Is it possible** that people can recognize our Christianity not by what we say, but by how we love? **Is it possible** that they might be more receptive to the claims of Christ after they have experienced firsthand the love of Christ?

This is similar to the strategy that Peter gives to wives who have unbelieving husbands: "Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives" (1 Peter 3:1).

9. The One Anothers reveal that LIFE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST REQUIRES A COMMITMENT OF TIME!

REALITY: **Our culture is** anti-family and anti-church when it comes to TIME. Even in many Christian homes the time requirements for providing for financial needs, plus the time required for the status symbol 'needs' of a family, and other 'outside the home' TIME demands LEAVE MANY families living almost as strangers under the same roof.

This tragedy is multiplied when it comes to a church family— too often we are mere 'nice' strangers who briefly see each other weekly together... if nothing else gets in the way.

REALITY: Culture is not going to change. We will have to make CHOICES to value FAMILY and people over 'stuff' and FAMILY and people over 'events' and/or status.

LIKEWISE for the Church: As I look at the will of God in the ONE ANOTHERS— I will now have to make some fresh CHOICES about HOW I spend my time. I will have to be JUDGMENT DAY HONEST about words and attitudes I have toward others. I need to face this question with JUDGMENT DAY HONESTY: BY MY WORDS, ATTITUDEES, and/or time choices,

AM I SHOUTING, "I DO NOT LOVE GOD!?"

Let me remember that **EXCUSES are a dime a dozen!**

And let me be honest: Behind every excuse is a CHOICE I made.

No excuse can hide the reality of nor cancel

The present and upcoming DAMAGE

From bad CHOICES of

Attitudes, words, and/or time!

[Note: Portions of this article were drawn from *"The 11th Commandment: Experiencing the One Anothers of Scripture* by Don McMinn]

BELOVED! LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER! James Bell

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES!

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care nursing home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM. Questions call Bradley Pennington at 615-804-3054.

**** WEDNESDAYS:** PRAYER SERVICE at 7:00PM; **IN CHURCH AUDITORIUM, COME IN FRONT DOORS**

**** NOTE:** Jody Allen is ministering to **young Children**, up to about age 10 during Prayer Service. Older children, but not old enough for the Youth Group... will be with their parents in the Prayer Service. **YOUTH GROUP:** Wednesdays 6-8pm... led by Byron Smith

☐ LADIES BIBLE STUDY— February 19, 11:00am, The Life of David! - 1 Samuel 18 - Cindy Bell, teaching. {Meet in Ladies Sunday School Room:

Come in FRONT doors of the church auditorium or the SIDE door at the top of the IRON STEPS!}

* **EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study!** {Study in 1 Thessalonians}... Come to back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning... walk forward... till you smell the coffee!}

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15—

1. 9:30am Sunday School
- 2. 10:45am Worship Service // LORD'S SUPPER**
3. Noon— No meal; No 1pm service
- 4. 5:00pm— HOME FELLOWSHIP/BIBLE STUDY GROUPS**

SUNDAY— February 22

- 1. 9:30am** Sunday School
- 2. 10:45am** Worship Service
- 3. Noon—** Fellowship, Covered-dish lunch
- 4. 1:00pm—** Early afternoon worship service