

# GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

**Volume 45, No. 40, October 2, 2018** / South side Baptist Church / 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; and 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 Savior JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

## **NO LONGER Biting and Devouring; but SERVING in LOVE!**

**"You, my brothers, were called to be free but do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command; "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Gal. 5:13 & 14) That sounds great— being free and loving one another. But wait, there is more . . . "If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other." (Gal. 5:15)**

**THERE is a REPEATED CALL in the New Testament for Christians to Love One Another:** John 13:34-35; 5:12, 17; Rom 12:10; 1 Thess 4:9; John 3:11, 14, 23; 4:7, 11, 12:2; II John 1:5 and 1 Peter 1:22. **MOREOVER, we are called to INCREASE** our love one for another (II Thess 1:3); and **to abound** in love for another (I Thess 3:12).

**\*\*\* WE ARE CALLED to Lovingly Serve One Another— to Serve** one another with the gifts each has received (I Peter 4:10);

to **Serve** one another in love (Gal. 5:13); to **Be kind** to one another (I Thess. 5:15); to **Care for** one another (I Cor 12:25); to **Bear** the burdens for one another (Gal. 6:2); to **Wash** each other's feet or to humbly serve one another (John 13:14); to **Work with** one another (I Cor 3:9; II Cor. 6:1); to **Teach** one another (Col. 3:16); and to **Instruct** one another (Rom. 5:14)

**\*\*\* We are to Lovingly Encourage/Edify One Another— to Encourage** one another (Col 3:16; Heb 10:25); to **Exhort** one another (Heb. 3:13); to **Speak** the truth to one another (Eph 4:25); to **Lay down** our lives one for another (I John 3:16); to **Spur** one another to love and good deeds (Heb. 10:24); to **Edify** (strengthen, build up) one another (I Thess. 4:18 & 5:1, 11; I Cor. 14:26); to **Confess** our sins one to another (James 5:16); and to **Pray** for one another (James 5:16)

**\*\*\* We are to Cultivate Unity and to Act with Humility— to Honor** one another (Rom. 12:10); to be of **One mind** one with another (II Cor. 13:11; Rom. 12:16, 15:5); to **not Criticize** one another (James 4:11; 5:9); to **Submit** to one another (Eph. 5:21); to **be Clothed with humility** toward one another (I Peter 5:5); to **have Patience** one with another (Eph. 4:2); to **live in Peace** one with another (Matt. 9:50); to **Receive one** another with hospitality (Rom. 15:7; I Peter 4:9); and to **Glorify God** together (Rom. 15:6)

**Here are important Biblical principles as to the application of the “One Another” Commands in our daily lives!**

***LET'S MAKE CHRIST VISIBLE TO OUR WORLD!***

**\*\*\* Receiving Must Precede Giving!** *"For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you"* (1 Cor. 11:23). **We simply cannot give what we have not received.** Receiving requires

NEW BIRTH which brings humility. NEW BIRTH humbles and fills us with gratefulness.

Because we must first receive 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 from the overflow of what He has given to us.** Understanding this principle of stewardship eliminates pride—we are simply distributing God's resources, not our own. (1 Chronicles 29:9-14)

**\*\*\* We Are to Give the One Anothers Freely/Generously!**

*"Freely you have received, freely give"* (Matthew 10:8). 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; so, let us give freely.** 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 fully 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!"*

**\*\*\* We Are to Give the One Anothers Indiscriminately! The 'one another' are focused on how Christians are to treat one another. However,** there will be many opportunities to

manifest the same kind of loving attitudes and actions to unbelievers. Let us keep our eyes and hearts open for such!

*"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 another 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 another to every person, as opportunity comes. **We can't have the attitude that says,** "I'll comfort my children, but not my spouse. I'll accept people who look like me, but not anyone who is different. I'll encourage fellow Christians, but not unbelievers." We must be willing to minister all of the one another to all sorts of people.

**TRUE, some people are** more difficult to love than others, but that challenge may be the "test" of whether or not **we** truly love as Christ loved us! JESUS SAYS: *" Love your enemies. . . **If you love those who love you, what do ye more than others. . .do not even pagans do that?"*** (Matt. 5:43-47)

**\*\*\* We Are to Relate to One Another As 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 Old Testament law was to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Lev. 19:18). **It is the qualification to love others as I have loved you" that is so radical! "**

**REALITY:** During His earthly ministry, **it's not that** Christ raised the bar so high that we cannot participate. **Rather,** JESUS modeled and made the message of love so plain that

we cannot claim ignorance! JESUS simply said, *"Do to others as I have done to you."*

During Jesus' three years of earthly ministry, in reality He continually performed the one anothers. For the Bible says He went about *"doing good"* (Acts 10:38). **Jesus showed His disciples and 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).

**\*\*\* How Did/Does Jesus Train His Disciples in The One Anothers?** JESUS 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 JESUS ministering the one anothers to other people; AND they 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."

### **Jesus is still saying that to his Church!**

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 this powerful ministry of love** was really driven home when, through the course of three years, the disciples doubtless realized more and more that Jesus loved them— in spite of all their flaws and inconsistencies. **This does not suggest** that Jesus did not confront sin and call for repentance!

**NOTE:** What a powerful revival will take place in Bible-believing homes and churches when we manifest the patient acceptance one to another as Jesus does for us!

**Split homes and Split churches and/or individuals leaving their family or leaving a church** are most often rooted in a THOUSAND THINGS which can be boiled down to this: *"You did or said something I don't like or agree with and so, I'm OUT OF HERE!"*

And yet Jesus continually looked beyond their imperfections and continued to love them deeply; and He kept on doing sacrificial things— ALL **so that they could become what they should become!** And He does the same for us— EMPOWERING us to walk in His steps!

**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. Moreover, the genuine Christian's heart has been FLOODED with love (Romans 5:5) by the Holy Spirit! Thus, CHRISTIANS are DIVINELY EMPOWERED to love!

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; John 3:16).

**\*\*\* When We 'Give The One Anothers' – 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). This is true, even when we are ministering to those yet lost. In Christ, this mystery is based on the fact that Believers are the body of Christ.

MAJOR REALITY: [1] To love one another is to love Christ; and [2] to neglect or harm one another is to neglect or harm Christ (Acts 9:4).

**\*\*\* When We Give the One Anothers, We Are Giving God's "Glorious Riches!" to others!** *"God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 4:19).

Among the abundant "riches" of Christ Jesus are the one anothers! *By calling upon us to distribute the one anothers, God allows us to be stewards of His "glorious riches."* What an honor. And that's the essence of the NEW commandment of John 13:34-35.

**THE INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT MOVES CHRISTIANS to have a GROWING, continuous commitment to receive and distribute GOD'S glorious riches!**

**\*\*\* The One Anothers Are A MAJOR 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 DIVINE SOURCE of so great a love: ***"All men will know that you are my disciples, if (when, because), 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 flowing through us? YES!

**AN EXAMPLE: \*\*\* This is similar to** the strategy that Peter gives to wives who have backslidden or 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).

**WE END this article as we began it— WITH both an encouragement and a WARNING:**

**"You, my brothers, were called to be free but do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command; "Love your neighbor as yourself."** (Gal. 5:13 & 14) That sounds great— being free and loving one another. But wait, there is more . . . **"If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other."** (Gal. 5:15) [Note: Much of this material was drawn from *"The 11<sup>th</sup> Commandment: Experiencing the One Anothers of Scripture* by Don McMinn]



**BELOVED! LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER!** James Bell

[www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)

**SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:**

**MONDAYS:** Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Call the church office at 615-452-5951

**TUESDAYS:** Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at **5:15PM.**

**WEDNESDAYS:** → 6:30pm— Children Ministry/activities; → 6:30pm— **Youth** Activities and Bible Study—

**→ 6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...**

(Enter via IRON STEPS; or double doors by gym)

**\*\*\* LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 9 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE. ENTER at the back of the church building, [*Doors open at 10:30am... re-locked at 11:10am*]**

**\*\*\* MEN: EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! (*STUDY: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN!*) ENTER AT THE back of Church building... under the drive-thru awning. FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits, & Donuts WAITING, starting at 7:30am!**

**SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!**

[http://www.southsidegallatin.org/Listen\\_to\\_other\\_sermons\\_on\\_sermonaudio/](http://www.southsidegallatin.org/Listen_to_other_sermons_on_sermonaudio/)

## **SUNDAY SERVICES: October 7, 14, 21, 28**

***Sunday School at 9:30am // Worship at 10:45am***

### **SPECIAL NOTES:**

***1. October 7 — NOON Covered Dish Meal***

***2. October 14 — 5:30pm, Faithful Men***

***3. October 21— LORD'S SUPPER at conclusion of the Morning Worship Service // HOME GROUPS MEET at 5:00pm***

***4. October 28 — PLEASE NOTE CHANGE JUST FOR 10/28— 6:00pm, JOHN MACKAY, of Creation Research!***

**\*\*\* [We will continue the monthly, church-wide equipping hour... presently SHEPHERDING A CHILD'S HEART, November 25]**



