

A Spiritual House Built for “One Another”

(VanVonderen, 1995)

I. How *not* to treat our spiritual brothers and sisters:

- Don't bite and devour one another (Galatians 5:15)
- Don't lie to one another (Colossians 3:9)
- Don't speak evil of one another (James 4:11)
- Don't grumble against one another (James 5:9)
- Don't judge one another (Romans 14:3)

If I go against these “one another's”, someone inevitably gets hurt.

II. Where we can count on help when we need it:

- Accept one another (Romans 15:7)
- Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- Bear with one another, with all humility, gentleness, and patience (Ephesians 4:2)
- Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another (Ephesians 4:32)
- Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another (James 5:16)

If I actively do these “one another's”, someone will always be helped.

III. Interactions with other Christians that build us up:

- Pursue what makes for peace and the building up of one another (Romans 14:19)
- Have the same kind of care for one another (I Corinthians 12:25)
- Admonish (gently warn) one another (Romans 15:14)
- Be devoted to one another, prefer one another when it comes to giving credit (Romans 12:10)
- Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
- Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21)
- Regard one another as more important than yourself (Philippians 2:3)
- Be hospitable to one another (I Peter 4:9)

Let me add this important piece to the picture. The Greek word that is translated “one another” is a part of speech that is called a “reciprocal pronoun”, which means that both parties will experience the action being done. If the action is positive—love, support comfort—*both parties will benefit*. And in the case of negative actions—speaking evil, consuming—*both parties lose*.