

Sunday, September 23, 2018—Body Building: Kindly Affectioned One to Another

Introduction/Review

- Last week we began our new series of studies titled Body Building. In doing so, I introduced you to a concept that I am calling the one-anothering principle.
- This morning I would like to begin by reviewing the one-anothering principle before we start studying some of its specific applications.
- I began last Sunday by giving you three different definitions for the physical activity of bodybuilding:
 - “a sport involving strenuous physical exercise in order to strengthen and enlarge the muscles of the body.” (Google)
 - “the developing of the body through exercise and diet; *specifically*: the developing of the physique for competitive exhibition.” (Merriam-Webster)
 - “the act or practice of exercising, lifting weights, etc., so as to develop the muscles of the body.” (Dictionary.com)
- I Timothy 4:7-8—this series is going to be about a particular kind of exercise, spiritual exercise. Spiritual exercise that is designed to build a spiritual body not a physical one. Our goal is to learn how to flex our spiritual muscles with the goal of building up the body of Christ.
 - Philippians 2:12—this type of exercise is going to require working out. Our goal is to take the life of Christ that is in us and work it out through us or manifest it in our mortal flesh.
 - II Corinthians 4:10-11
- Romans 12:4-5—are the text verses that I have selected for this series because they encapsulate many ideas pertaining to the body of Christ that are explained in more detail elsewhere in Paul’s epistles.
- Ephesians 4:15-16—the body of Christ is literally designed to be self-edifying.
 - Edify—means to build.
- Romans 12:5—the phrase “one of another” is a translation of a plural pronoun which means: “reciprocally” or “mutually.”
 - Reciprocal—“Mutual; done by each to the other” (Webster’s 1828)

- Reciprocally—"Mutually; interchangeably; in such a manner that each affects the other and is equally affected by it." (Webster's 1828)
- The English words "one" and "another" occur together 110 times in 44 verses in Paul's epistles. When one considers these occurrences a key, but much overlooked Pauline principle emerges, the principle of One-Anothering.
 - Romans 12:10—kindly affectioned & preferring one another
 - Romans 13:8—love one another
 - Romans 14:13—not judge one another
 - Romans 15:7—receive one another
 - Romans 15:14—admonish one another
 - Romans 16:16—salute one another
 - Romans 16:20—greet one another
 - I Corinthians 12:25—same care one for another
 - Galatians 5:13—by love serve one another
 - Galatians 5:15—**should not** bite & devour one another
 - Galatians 5:26—**should not** be provoking one another
 - Galatians 6:6—bear ye one another's burdens
 - Ephesians 4:2—forbearing one another
 - Ephesians 4:32—forgiving one another
 - Colossians 3:16—teaching and admonishing one another
 - I Thessalonians 4:18—comforting one another
 - I Thessalonians 5:11—edify one another

- I believe that one keys to unlocking the self-edifying nature of the body of Christ resides in the concept of one-anothering. In the coming weeks we will be considering the various aspects of one-anothering with the goal of learning how to become a Body Builder.

Kindly Affectioned

- Romans 12:10—the underling Greek word translated “kindly affection” only occurs once in the Greek text supporting the King James Bible. The underlying Greek word carries the following meanings:
 - “cherishing one’s kindred, especially parents or children; fond of natural relatives, i.e. fraternal towards fellow Christians: —kindly affectioned.”
- The English words involved in the expression “kindly affectioned” are defined as follows:
 - Kindly—“with good will; with a disposition to make others happy or to oblige; benevolently; favorably.” (*Webster’s 1828*)
 - Romans 12:10
 - Affectioned—“disposed; having an affection of heart.” (*Webster’s 1828*)
 - Romans 12:10
- Taken together the following understating of the expression “kindly affectioned” emerges:
 - the disposition of heart whose goal is to make others happy and to treat them favorably and with good will.
- *One to another*—according to verse 10, this “kindly affectioned” disposition of heart has a target that it is to be aimed at, other believers. This disposition of heart is supposed to be a reciprocated action on the part of saints “one to another.”
- *With brotherly love*—this expression is a translation of the Greek word *philadelphia*. This word is used throughout the New Testament to denote the love that believers ought to have for one another.
 - I Thessalonians 4:9—“brotherly love”
 - Hebrews 13:1—“brotherly love”
 - I Peters 1:22—“love of the brethren”
 - II Peter 1:7—“brotherly kindness”

- Ephesians 4:31-32—in these verses we see the vices of the flesh and the Holy Spirit’s antidote for Body Building.
- Fleshly Vices—things to put away (Ep. 4:22-25)
 - *Bitterness*—unwillingness to forgive; resentment
 - *Wrath*—fierceness, hyper ventilating
 - *Anger*—violent passion, hostile; (sinful anger opposite of Eph. 4:26)
 - *Clamour*—loud outcries of anger; shouting down at others
 - *Evil speaking*—slander, railing against someone
 - *Malice*—to be mean; wishing evil or bad for others; vicious character
- Ephesians 4:32—the first thing we are instructed “to be” (imperative mood) is “kind one to another.” Note once again the reciprocating nature of this statement “one to another.” Kindness is the opposite of everything in verse 31.
- Our model for kind behavior of other members of the body of Christ is found in God the father’s treatment of us.
 - Titus 3:4—as in Romans 12:10 we see that kindness is coupled with love.
 - Ephesians 2:7
- Acts 28:1-2—here are some barbarous (foreign) people who showed “no little kindness” (showed a lot of kindness) to Paul and all his travel companions. If members of the body of Christ are showing more kindness to foreigners (unsaved people) than they are to the household of faith we have a major problem on our hands.
- Our relationships with others in the household of faith ought to be characterized by:
 - Demonstrating love by tender affection toward one-another
 - Lack of coldness and/or indifference to one-another
 - Lack of selective acceptance of others
 - Preferring to see others honored rather than ourselves
 - Helping and supporting one-another

- Ephesians 4:32— the second thing we are instructed “to be” (imperative mood) is “tenderhearted” or “very susceptible of the softer passions of love, pity or kindness.” (*Webster’s 1828*) I think that admonition “to be kind one to another, tenderhearted” answers to Paul’s statement in Rom. 12:10 to “be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love.”
- God our Father is tenderhearted
 - James 5:11
 - Psalm 145:8-9
- Ephesians 4:32—within the context of Ephesians 4, tenderheartedness is dealing with showing compassion when our brothers and sisters have faults. We are not to defame and/or slander other believers for their faults because each of us most assuredly has our own.
 - Galatians 6:1-2
- Romans 12:10—the one-anothering principle established in verse 5 show up first in the admonition to “be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love.”