

Sunday, November 18, 2018—Body Building: By Love Serve One Another

Introduction

- Ephesians 4:16—the body of Christ was designed to edify itself. The focus of our current series has been on the self-edifying nature of the body of Christ. How does the body edify itself?
 - I Timothy 4:7-8—each individual member of the body Christ needs to exercise his or herself unto Godliness. That is make conscience decisions to function in a Godly way.
 - Philippians 2:12—this type of exercise is going to require working out and spiritual discipline. 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.
- Romans 12:5—in our first study in this series, I introduced you to a concept that I am calling the one-anothering principle. 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)
- Thus far we have observed the following one-anotherings:
 - Kindly affectioned one to another (Rom. 12:10)
 - Preferring one another (Rom. 12:10)
 - Not judge one another (Rom. 14:13)
 - Likeminded one toward another (Rom. 15:5)
 - Receive ye one another (Rom. 15:7)
 - Admonish one another (Rom. 15:14)
 - Salute one another with a holy kiss (Rom. 16:16)
 - Same Care One for Another (I Cor. 12:25)

By Love Serve One Another

- Galatians 5:13—is where we encounter Paul’s next one-another statement, “by love serve one another.”
- Before we get into the specific content of Paul’s one-anothering statement in verse 13, we need to make sure that we understand the context in which this verse appears.
 - Galatians 1:6-9—Paul preached the grace of Christ in Galatia. He did not preach the law of Moses or Israel’s program from time past. Paul preached a gospel message that he had received by the revelation of Jesus Christ himself. The Galatians had allowed themselves to be removed from the grace of Christ unto another so-called gospel.
 - Galatians 1:11-12
 - Galatians 2:16, 21
 - Galatians 3:1-5—the Galatians had allowed themselves to be bewitched by the law. They had willfully placed themselves back under its dominion and authority.
 - Romans 6:14
 - Galatians 4:9, 20—Paul calls the law “weak and beggarly” and then tells the Galatians that he stands in doubt of them. Paul never said this to the Corinthians.
 - Galatians 5:1-4—entangling themselves with the yoke of bondage caused the Galatians to fall from grace, according to the Apostle Paul. They had replaced the operating system of grace with one of law keeping and legalism.
- Galatians 5:13—Paul address one of the common objections of legalistic people, “tell people they are under grace and they will use it as a license to sin.” Our liberty under grace has not been given to us for the purposes of indulging the flesh.
 - Galatians 5:16-21—liberty was not given to believers for us to engaged in the willful indulgence of the flesh.
 - Galatians 6:8
- Galatians 5:13—note the contrast “but” that sets the last phrase of verse 13 apart from the previous one. Our liberty was not given to us serve ourselves but to serve others. Instead of being consumed with the legality or permissiveness of a given action under grace we are free to consider how our actions affect and impact others.

- *By love*—is the operative force in verse. We serve each by “by love.” Our natural programming however is to serve ourselves and our own interests. How can we learn to serve others by love?
 - I Thessalonians 4:9-10—if we allow him to God almighty will teach us how to love one another.
 - Ephesians 2:4
 - Romans 5:5-8
 - II Corinthians 5:14
 - Philippians 2:5-8—what we are really taking about here once again is the mind of Christ. Love that values and esteems others a greater than oneself.
 - I Corinthians 14:1—“charity” is the more excellent way from I Cor. 12:31. Believers are to be following after “charity” in our relationship with each other.
 - I Corinthians 16:14—all our things are to be done with charity.
 - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7—what charity looks like amongst believers
 - suffereth long—*patiently endures with people & circumstances*
 - is kind—*acts benevolently, makes oneself useful to others*
 - envieth not—*is not jealous or envious of what others have*
 - vaunteth not itself—*does not brag and know better all the time*
 - not puffed up—*is not proud & full of self*
 - Doth not behave itself unseemly—*unbecoming, inappropriate*
 - seeketh not her own—*not about me, myself and I – selfish trinity*
 - not easily provoked—*is not excite mind to angry action*
 - thinketh no evil—*that which is bad and/or harmful for another*
 - Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth—*does not rejoice in unrighteousness*
 - Beareth all things—*covers the faults of others not to expose them*

- believeth all things—*gives others the benefit of the doubt*
- hopeth all things—*expects and trusts in the best for others*
- endureth all things—*bears up under the pressure of others*
- Galatians 5:13—the verb “serve” is a present active imperative in other words it is a command. Students of the book of Galatians have already encountered the word translated “serve” three different times.
 - Galatians 4:8—“service”
 - Galatians 4:9, 25—“bondage”
- Galatians 5:13—Paul wanted the Galatians to be motivated by love to serve or be in be in bondage to each other.
 - Motivator—love
 - Action—service
 - Target—one another
- Ephesians 4:16