

Sunday, November 11, 2018—Body Building: Same Care One for Another

Introduction

- I Timothy 4:7-8—this series is going to be about a 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 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 Corinthians 12:25—is where we encounter Paul’s next one-anothering statement, “the members should have the same care one for another.”
- This verse is nestled within a context arguably comprising Paul’s most detailed description of the body Christ.

- I Corinthians 12:12-13—people become members of the body of Christ by spiritual identification with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- I Corinthians 12:14—there are many members comprising this one body.
 - Romans 12:4-5
- I Corinthians 12:15-19—the human body is the illustration for how Christ’s spiritual body is comprised.
- I Corinthians 12:20-26—on account of how God set the various members into the body He does not want there to be “schism” in the body. Rather he wants the members to have the “same care one for another.”
- I Corinthians 12:25—the word translated “care” is the same found in Philippians 4:6.
 - Philippians 4:6—in this verse the word “careful” is talking about being anxious and/or troubled with cares in the sense of “full of care, trouble, anxiety, or concern; anxious, troubled, solicitous, concerned.” (OED)
 - Luke 10:38-42
- I Corinthians 12:25—in this verse the word “care” is not negative as it is in the previous two examples. Here Paul wants believers to have the “same care one for another.” This means that the word “care” can also have a positive connotation.
 - I Corinthians 7:32-34—in verse 32 the Greek word translated “carefulness” is not the same word translated as “care” later in the verse. Rather than being full of trouble, anxiety, and worry Paul says that unmarried people “careth for the things that belong to the Lord.” “Care” in this sense is not being used negatively but with the idea of “to care for, look out for (a thing); to seek to promote one's interests; caring or providing for.”
 - Philippians 2:19-20—Timothy would “care” for the state of the Philippians in that he would be looking out for them and seeking to promote their interests. Notice the connection between Timothy being likeminded (Rom. 15:5) with Paul and caring for the state of the saints.
 - II Corinthians 7:12—Paul wrote I Corinthians out of his “care” for the saints in Corinth.
 - II Corinthians 8:16
 - Philippians 4:16—the Philippians had “care” for Paul’s financial needs.

- I Timothy 3:5
- I Corinthians 12:25—believers are to have the “same care one for another.” Believers are to be looking out for one another and caring for one another. Once again this “care” is to be demonstrated in a reciprocal fashion.
 - Ephesians 5:28-29—when a husband loves his wife, he loves himself. The same time an attention that a husband puts into himself is to be put into his wife.
- I Corinthians 12:26—just like in marriage where you win or lose but you do it together. Members of the body of Christ are to suffer and rejoice with each other. In the context, this is what having the “same care one for another” looks like.
- Believers who are by faith practicing the one-anotherings we have studied so far in this series will naturally have the “same care one for another.”
 - 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)
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