

Sunday, August 11, 2019—Body Building: Conclusion

### **The One-Anothering Principle**

- Romans 12:4-5—I chose these verses as one of the text verses 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.
- In addition, there are many related and important concepts within the context of this passage.
  - Verse 1—our reasonable service
  - Verse 2—transformation by the renewing of our mind
    - Bible Conference
  - Verse 3—proper thinking about one’s self
- Romans 12:5—*And every one members one of another*—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 Greek word is variously rendered in English with words and phrases such as: “mutual,” “one another,” “esteem one to another,” “one of another” throughout the New Testament.
- 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.

### **Edify One Another**

- I Thessalonians 5:11—Paul’s last one-anothering statement is for believers to “edify one another.” Once again, the verb translated “edify” is a present active imperative which means that Paul is commanding believers in the present to actively be engaged in the activity of edifying one another.
- The word “edify” means to:
  - To build, in a literal sense.

- To instruct and improve the mind in knowledge generally, and particularly in moral and religious knowledge, in faith and holiness.
  - Edify one another. 1 Thessalonians 5:11.
- Here in Paul's final one-anothering statement we see the core of body building i.e., to build each other up in Christ.
- Romans 14:19—what things make for peace and build up the other members of the body of Christ? Practicing the other 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 (Gal. 4:13)
  - **Should not** be biting, devouring, and consuming one another (Gal. 5:15)
  - **Should not** be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, or envying one another (Gal. 5:26)
  - Bear ye one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2)
  - Forbearing one another in love (Eph. 4:2)
  - Forgiving one another (Eph. 4:32)
  - Comforting one another (I Thess. 4:8; 5:11)
- A church body that choose to practice the principle of One-Anothering would be characterized by meaningful and deep concern for fellow believers. It is characterized by the following:

- *Connectedness*—“knit together” (Col. 2:19)
- *Accountability*—“striving together” (Phil. 1:27)
- *Edification*—“edify one another” (I Thes. 5:11)
- *Growth*—“grow up into him” (Eph. 4:15)
- *Unity*—that ye be likeminded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. *Let nothing be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. (Phil. 2:2-5)
- *Motivation*—“the love of Christ constraineth us” (II Cor. 5:14)
- *Ministry*—“addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints” (I Cor. 16:15)
- *Fellowship*—“fellowship in the gospel” (Phil. 1:5)
- Practicing the principle of One-Anothering builds the body of Christ. The results of which would be:
  - People will look forward to coming together.
  - Fellowshiping becomes a priority in their lives.
  - These results also provide a platform for evangelism.
  - These results of true body life will fuel a positive growing expectation about life and ministry.
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12—we need one another.
- Romans 12:5—as members of the B.O.C. we should never be alone and should always have someone having our back and be there to comfort, exhort, love, edify etc.