

## The “One Another” Passages

The phrase “one another” is derived from the Greek word *allelon* which means “one another, each other; mutually, reciprocally.” It occurs 100 times in the New Testament. Approximately 59 of those occurrences are specific commands teaching us how (and how not) to relate to one another. Obedience to those commands is imperative. It forms the basis for all true Christian community, and has a direct impact on our witness to the world (John 13:35). In addition to *allelon*, the Bible uses other words and phrases to instruct us how to relate to others. With that in mind, the following list is not exhaustive, and primarily focuses on the use of *allelon*.

### POSITIVE COMMANDS

- Love** one another (John 13:34 - This command occurs at least 16 times)
- Be devoted to** one another (Romans 12:10)
- Honor** one another **above yourselves** (Romans 12:10)
- Live in harmony with** one another (Romans 12:16)
- Build up** one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Be likeminded towards** one another (Romans 15:5)
- Accept** one another (Romans 15:7)
- Admonish** one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16) **Greet** one another (Romans 16:16)
- Care for** one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)
- Serve** one another (Galatians 5:13)
- Bear** one another's **burdens** (Galatians 6:2)
- Forgive** one another (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)
- Be patient with** one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
- Speak the truth** in love (Ephesians 4:15, 25)
- Be kind and compassionate** to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
- Speak** to one another with **psalms, hymns and spiritual songs** (Ephesians 5:19)
- Submit** to one another (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5)
- Consider** others **better than yourselves** (Philippians 2:3)
- Look to the interests of** one another (Philippians 2:4)
- Bear with** one another (Colossians 3:13)
- Teach** one another (Colossians 3:16)
- Comfort** one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
- Encourage** one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Exhort** one another (Hebrews 3:13)
- Stir up [provoke, stimulate]** one another **to love and good works** (Hebrews 10:24)
- Show hospitality** to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
- Employ the gifts that God has given us for the benefit of** one another (1 Peter 4:10)
- Clothe yourselves with humility towards** one another (1 Peter 5:5)
- Pray** for one another (James 5:16)
- Confess your faults** to one another (James 5:16)

### NEGATIVE COMMANDS (how *not* to treat one another)

**Do not lie** to one another (Colossians 3:9) **Stop passing judgment** on one another (Romans 14:13) **If you keep on biting and devouring** each other...**you'll be destroyed** by each other (Galatians 5:15) Let us not become **conceited, provoking and envying** each other (Galatians 5:26) **Do not slander** one another (James 4:11) **Don't grumble against** each other (James 5:9)

We do all this because we are in a real sense “**members of one another**” (Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:25).

### Take some time to read through these “one another” phrases.

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to 1-3 phrases that you need to focus on in the month ahead.
2. Why do you think the Holy Spirit is compelling you to focus on the one(s) you have selected?
3. How will you put into practice the “one another” admonitions given to us by the Holy Spirit?