

"Love One Another"

October 7, 2018

Why is 'loving one another' paramount in the local church?

John 13:34+35

1) It Is A Necessity For Both Our Well-Being & Our Witness

If we're to 'love another' as Jesus has loved us, then we need to consider - *how has* Jesus shown love?

He gave time in His prime.

He also showed love by giving His all/best, so that we might be both temporally and eternally blessed.

When you feel unmotivated or ill-equipped, or like you don't really matter, just remember - He wants you as you are, to give Him your best!

He also showed love through ongoing surrender and service.

Notice again, the magnitude of all of this... **John 13:35**

Ephesians 4:1-3

2) It Is A Necessity If We're To Have Unity Of The Spirit, In Peace

We're to 'tolerate' one another *in love*; it's love that causes us to 'put-up' with each other for the purpose of having unity and peace.

God is giving us a Divine summons, a Divine invitation to walk in a *manner worthy* of this calling - to join Him in humility, gentleness & patience - to tolerate one another in love, in unity & in peace.

If there's disunity in the body of Christ, then it won't be long before Satan divides and conquers.

Romans 12:10-13

3) It Is A Necessity If We Are To Be A Healthy Body

This passage is a barometer, a measuring device - to test our hearts, to see where we're at as a body; do we want this? If not, could we ever *be* a healthy body?... Or a body at *all*?

These are things we struggle with, that we have to wrestle with, & pray for & fight for - because it's worth it!

1 Corinthians 3:16+17 - Ephesians 5:29+30

The Body of Christ is more than worth fighting for - it's worth laying down your life for... Which is exactly what Jesus has done for us.

"If we could picture Christ as the Head of our local body of believers, would the world laugh at the misfit? Or, would they stand in awe of a human Body so closely related to a Divine Head?"

Galatians 5:13

4) Because It Leads To Serving One Another

As we learn to serve one another in love, then our freedom for the flesh (to live however we want - which is actually bondage), begins to subside.

"The root of sin, is selfishness - 'I will', and not 'Thy will.'"... And it can wreck a life, a home, or a church."

To love is to be selfless, which then lends itself to service... Which is paramount in a healthy church.

1 John 3:18