

What Christians Owe “One Another”
(Preached in 2 parts)

- Intro
- 1) Turn to Rom. 12:4-5
 - 2) Illus: “May I kiss you?” – Too short.

Stood on anvil – Strolled on about a mile.

“May I kiss you?” – No.

“May as well set this anvil down.”
 - 3) We will do almost anything to feel accepted by others.
 - 4) Read text – Rom. 12:4-5
 - 5) Devil’s tool box contains many tools.
 - a) Division
 - b) Discouragement Bible tells us how to handle these problems
 - c) Envy & jealousy
 - 6) We can be triumphant if we remember some things we owe each other.
- I. “Love one another.” – To provide what’s needed.
- A. Most often stressed of “One Another” passages (John, I & II John, Peter, Rom. 13:8)
 - B. Why did Jesus stress that we love one another?
 1. Perhaps – because others may not love us.
 - a. Jn. 15:17 Love one another
 - b. Jn. 15:19 The world hateth you
 - c. Jn. 15:20 They will persecute you
 - d. Jn. 16:2 They will think they serve God by putting you out of synagogues.
 2. Notice I Cor. 13 more carefully (vs. 4 & 5)

- a. Love helps us - be patient (vs. 4)
- b. - not to envy (vs. 4)
- c. - not to pout (vs. 4)
- d. - not to boast (vs. 4)
- e. - to be unselfish (vs. 5)
- f. - to endure (vs. 5)
- g. - think clearly – free of suspicion (vs. 7)

Illus: Lady – Airport – Coffee and cookies – heavy luggage – table to read newspaper – flabbergasted – heard rustling – man helping self to cookies – she leaned over and took cookie – more rustling – he helping self to another! – Last one – broke in ½. Then left – what would you have thought – At time? Then later – when found your unopened bag of cookies.

- II. I Pet. 4:9 - “Use hospitality (love of strangers) one to another without grudging.”
 - A. Rom. 15:7 - “Receive one another just as Christ received us to the glory of God.”
 - B. Early Christians did not have:
 - 1. Motels – cars
 - 2. At mercy of kind hosts
 - 3. Still today – needed
 - C. The duty often reversed today (courtesy) – NOT to impose unnecessarily.
 - D. Yet – we need to be in one another’s homes more.
- III. Hebrews 10:24 - “Consider one another to provoke to love and good works.”
 - A. “Consider” – “Stop and think about”
 - 1. Our actions have consequences.

- a. I Cor. 10:32 - "Give no offense, either to Jews or Greeks or to the church of God."
 - b. I Cor. 6 – Going to law with brothers – Consider – Think!
 - 2. Seemingly right actions often have dire consequences. Think – "Is it worth the price?"
 - B. "Provoke" – "to challenge or coax into action"
 - 1. Positive – provoke to love and good works
 - 2. Negative – Gal 5:26 – "Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another."
- IV. Heb 10:25 - "Not forsaking . . . Exhorting one another."
- A. Exhort – urge, appeal, argue, advise, encourage, recommend strongly
 - B. Rom. 15:14 – To be able to admonish:
 - 1. Must be "filled with goodness"
 - 2. Must be "full of knowledge" (Who will listen to mean-spirited ignoramus?)
 - C. Your greatest expression of encouragement – Be There – Show Up. Be Here!
- V. I Thes. 4:18 - "Comfort one another with these words."
- A. Context – 2nd Coming – Resurrection – rising to meet Christ.
 - 1. Strong comfort in hope
 - 2. Do we speak often regarding Spiritual things?
 - 3. A lot of pain in this old world – Comfort one another.

Concl. #1 Things we owe "one another":

- 1) Love – use hospitality – consider – exhort – comfort
- 2) Anything here you can work on today?
 - a) We are in the "one another" business.

- b) I am “my brothers keeper”
- c) “Hang together or hang separately”

3) What can we do for you this morning?

Intro #2 1) This morning we talked about five things Christians owe one another.

- a) No new concept – others in “team” expect similar cooperation
 - 1) Athletics, military, business
 - 2) Expect: 100% effort, loyalty
- b) II Tim. 2:3-10 – READ

(Paul uses these same examples)
(Read and elaborate)

2) Tonight we’ll discuss three more things Christians owe one another

I. Gal 5:13-15 - “Through Love – Serve One Another”

A. Read vs. 13-15

B. Serve one another

- 1. Negative
 - a. Some complain “Never being served”
 - b. Their “root sin” is selfishness.
- 2. Positive – Jesus washed every apostle’s foot
 - a. Motive – Love, not gain
 - b. A towel church will be a growing church
 - c. Problem – everybody waiting to see who will do it.

C. vs. 15 - Don’t “bite and devour one another”

- 1. Result – “Be consumed by one another.”

2. Illus: French – English War – Admiral Phipps – anchored outside Quebec – waiting for ground troops – irked by statues of saints on roof of cathedral – while waiting idly – loosed guns and began shooting them off. When infantry arrived – battle ready – he was out of ammunition – used it all up “shooting at the saints.”

II. Jas. 5:16 – “Confess your faults to one another and pray for one another.”

A. Does not say:

1. Confess your inadequacies (Not a song leader)
2. Rehearse your ailments (rheumatiz; bad thought)
3. Turn confession to piety (respond for the lime-light)

B. Probably – apologizing to those who have faulted

1. One to another
2. I owe my apology
3. You owe me your prayers
4. Confession always involves God and the one wronged. (I Jn. 1:7-10 - Read)

III. Col. 3:13 – “Forbearing with one another and forgiving one another.”

A. Folks – what more can one do than apologize?

1. They haven’t proved they’re sorry. What more?
2. They haven’t suffered enough yet – We in punishing business?
3. I don’t know if God has forgiven. When will we ever know?
4. Forgive one another – Christ forgave Jews.
 - a. We owe one another forgiveness.
 - b. If they’re not sorry – at least off our conscience.
 - c. If God not forgiven – because of their heart – which we can’t see.

5. Forgive one another – It’s balm to the soul.

B. Forbearing one another – patience.

1. New babes and old habits deserve patience.

2. Zealous preachers make plenty of blunders.

a. Our temptation is to pounce, to quit, to back bite.

b. “Forbear” – to refrain, to abstain

C. Eph. 4:2 – “Edify one another”

1. What is an edifice? A building?

2. So – build up one another.

Concl. #2 1) Satan can’t touch us if we help each other. Love, hospitality, consideration, exhortation, comfort, service, prayers, forgiveness.

2) These are the things we owe one another.

3) Divisions, discouragement, envy, and jealousy can not hurt us when we are helping “one another.”