

One Another's, Mystery of the Church, Head of the Church, the Church...Body of Christ

One Another...*Allelon* (al-lay'-lone) (Strong's G240)

In the NASB, there were 156 occurrences of one another...53 in the OT, 103 in the NT, and there are 58 in the NT that appear to be speaking to Christians in the Body of Christ.

A description of God's will for the church, the body of Christ...

...seek what is good, pursue peace, encourage, and build one another up

Romans 14:19; Hebrews 3:13; Hebrews 10:24; Hebrews 10:25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11

The emphasis is to encourage/exhort believers to continue growing in Christ, not returning to the old Levitical system or their old ways...they were comforting, warning, and strengthening believers.

...teaching and admonishing one another

- **Romans 15:14...*And concerning you, my brothers and sisters, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.***
- **Colossians 3:16...*Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.***

Admonish is to encourage, warn, or advise – a comprehensive term for preaching and personal counseling. Every believer is responsible to encourage and strengthen other believers with God's Word and is divinely equipped to do so (2 Timothy 3:16)¹.

Dwell means to "live in" or to "be at home in" and richly may be understood as "abundantly or extravagantly". Scripture should permeate every aspect of a believer's life and control every thought and deed...thereby something they can share with others. This concept is parallel to being filled with the Spirit in Ephesians 5:18²...the power and motivation for all the effects is the filling of the Holy Spirit.

...confess, pray for, and serve one another

James 5:16; John 13:14; 1 Peter 4:9; Galatians 5:13; 1 Peter 4:10

Confess and pray require honesty and openness to uphold each other in spiritual struggles of life. Washing the feet was an example of loving humility; hospitality of strangers is another example. Christian freedom is not for self-fulfillment, but for serving others.

...accepting, comforting, being kind, bearing burdens, and living in peace with one another

Romans 15:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:18; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12,13; Ephesians 4:1-3; Galatians 6:2; Ephesians 5:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:13

Bearing with one another in love...Humility, gentleness, and patience are reflected in a forbearing love for others that is continuous and unconditional. "Burdens" are extra heavy loads, which here represent difficulties or problems people have trouble dealing with.

Speaking to one another in vs. 5:19 is the leading verse describing the immediate personal consequences of obeying the command to be filled with the Spirit.

¹ 2 Timothy 3:16-17...*All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work.*

² Ephesians 5:18...*And do not get drunk with wine, in which there is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,*

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...giving preference to, subjecting ourselves, individually devoted, we are part of one another

**Philippians 2:3; Romans 12:10,11; Ephesians 5:21; Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:25;
Romans 15:5; 1 John 1:7**

In the Ephesians 5:22-6:9 section, Paul declares unequivocally that every spirit-filled Christian is to be a humble, submissive Christian. This is foundational to all the relationships in that section...husbands, wives, parents, children, Bondservants, and masters. No believer is inherently superior to any other believer...our standing before God is equal in every way.

Same or like mind...believers are to pursue loving, spiritual harmony in regard to matters on which the Bible is silent (in a section speaking about the strong/weak on non-essential issues).

Our fellowship with one another is based on a shared character of God, a character of holiness, indicating our true fellowship with God.

...My commandment, love one another

1 John 3:11; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 Peter 4:8; John 15:12; John 13:35; John 13:34; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 1 John 3:23; 1 John 4:7; 1 John 4:11; 1 John 4:12; 2 John 1:5; 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Christian love toward one another follows God's example of sacrificial love. Both walking in the truth and in love is the behavior of hospitality.

...greet one another in humility, at peace, seeking what is good

2 Corinthians 13:12; Romans 16:16; 1 Peter 5:14; 1 Peter 5:5; Mark 9:50; 1 Thessalonians 5:15; Romans 12:16

A description of what God's would not like to see in the church, the body of Christ...

...works of the flesh, not to be a part of the body of Christ's one another's...betraying, hating, owing, judging, biting/devouring, envying, challenging, lying/falsehood, selfishness, conceit, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, and complaining/speaking against one another.

Matthew 24:10; Romans 13:8; Romans 14:13; Galatians 5:15; Galatians 5:26; Ephesians 4:25; Philippians 2:3; Colossians 3:9; Titus 3:3; James 4:11; James 5:9

All of these characteristics speak for themselves, we know them, we have seen them in ourselves and others...God's Word reminds us that these "one another's" have no place in the church.

Why are all these "one another's" important for us to consider, pray about, and apply in our lives and the life of this church?

Ephesians 4:4-6

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you also were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.