

More Commands for “One Another”

Selected Scriptures

1. **Accept One Another** (Rom. 15:7)

The Lord saves individuals without respect to their gender or their social, political, economic, ethnic background (1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:11). Being united on the basis of what is most fundamental to our own individual identities (i.e. being born again) does not eliminate disagreements or conflicts related to issues of maturity (Rom. 14:1ff; 1 Cor. 10:23ff) or issues related to culture or to some kind of preference. These differences allow us the opportunity to accept one another. We are commanded to accept our brother (Rom 15:7a) just as Christ has already accepted us (Rom 15:7b) because God has already also accepted him (Rom. 14:3).

2. **Bear With One Another** (Col. 3:13)

The Lord patiently endured the slowness that the disciples matured (Mark 9:19), and so we are to strive to respond likewise to our brethren. This requires us to have an attitude predisposed to endurance as well as to graciousness or forgiveness (Eph 4:2, 32; cf. Matt 18:21-22).

3. _____ **One Another** (1 Thess 5:11)

The trials and struggles of life can often give us opportunity to be disheartened and discouraged, and we are to encourage one another. While the word for encouragement can simply mean to “cheer up” (John 11:19, 31), it is very often used in conjunction with a reminder of what God has said (1 Thess 4:1, 18; cf. Luke 3:18; Acts 2:40; 2 Cor. 1:4-6). Along with encouragement, we are to build one another up. This has the idea of the construction of actual buildings (John 2:20). Jesus will not fail in the building of His church (Matt 16:18) even during times of persecution (cf. Acts 9:31). God’s plan is for believers to be built up and mature in the faith (Eph 4:12-14) to worship and honor God (cf. 1 Pet. 2:5). It is the gospel and the Word which He uses to accomplish this (cf. Acts 20:32).

4. _____ **One Another**(Heb. 10:25)

As we individually hold fast to all that God has promised (v.23), believers are to be thoughtful (cf. James 1:23-24) in our encouraging one another (v.25) to live the faithful Christian life (v.24). This encouragement ought to happen wherever and whenever believers are together, but an important and irreplaceable occasion for this is the regular assembly of the church (v.25). There is no New Testament command for how frequently the local body is to assemble together, though the early believers gathered daily (Acts 2:46). The Old Testament pattern (Ex. 20:8-11) along with New Testament practice (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2) gives a general pattern of gathering at least once per week on the Lord’s day (Rev. 1:10). There may be seasons where gathering is not possible, this is to be an exception and not the rule.