

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF FELLOWSHIP – PART 2

Pastor Rick Reager – August 7, 2022

12 BUILDING BLOCKS OF CHURCH FELLOWSHIP:

REVIEW:

1. LOVE

“³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.” John 13:34

“¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.” Colossians 3:14

2. COMMITMENT

“⁴² All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.” Acts 2:42

“⁵ In Christ we who are many form one Body, and each member belongs to all the others.” Romans 12:5

3. FREQUENCY

“²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” Hebrews 10:25

“⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity.” Acts 2:46

4. AUTHENTICITY

“²⁵ So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body.” Ephesians 4:25

i. Authentic Identity

“⁹ What sorrow awaits those who argue with their Creator. Does a clay pot argue with its maker? Does the clay dispute with the one who shapes it, saying, ‘Stop, you’re doing it wrong!’ Does the pot exclaim, ‘How clumsy can you be?’ ¹⁰ How terrible it would be if a newborn baby said to its father, ‘Why was I born?’ or if it said to its mother, ‘Why did you make me this way?’ ¹¹ This is what the LORD says—the Holy One of Israel and your Creator: “Do you question what I do for my children? Do you give me orders about the work of my hands?” Isaiah 45:9-10

ii. Authentic Emotional Life

“¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.” Romans 12:15

iii. Authentic Confession

“¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other.” James 5:16

“⁸ If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth.” 1 John 1:8

iv. Authentic Relationship With God

“⁵ “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

“¹⁶ God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.” 1 John 4:16

v. Authentic Pursuit Of Spiritual Growth

⁷ *Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives' tales. Instead, train yourself to be godly.*
⁸ *Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come." 1 Timothy 4:7-8*

²⁵ *All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. ²⁶ So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. ²⁷ I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified." 1 Corinthians 9:25-27*

vi. Authentic Love For Others

⁹ *Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.*
¹⁰ *Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other." Romans 12:9-10*

¹⁸ *Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.*
¹⁹ *Our actions will show that we belong to the truth." 1 John 3:18-19*

vii. Authentic Forgiveness

¹³ *You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." Colossians 3:13*

⁴ *Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged." 1 Corinthians 13:4-5*

PART 2:

5. _____

¹² *I'm eager to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours. In this way, each of us will be a blessing to the other." Romans 1:12*

¹⁷ *As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend." Psalm 27:17*

¹⁰ *If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But people who are alone when they fall are in real trouble." Ecclesiastes 4:10*

Key Aspects Of Mutuality:

i. Mutual _____

¹⁶ *Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed." James 5:16*

⁵ *Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. If you cannot tell that Jesus Christ is among you, it means you have failed the test." 2 Corinthians 13:5*

ii. Mutual _____

¹⁰ *Take delight in honoring each other." Romans 12:10*

iii. Mutual _____

²⁹ *Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them." Ephesians 4:29*

“²⁴ Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds.” Hebrews 10:24

iv. Mutual _____

“¹⁰ God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” 1 Peter 4:10

“⁷ A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.” 1 Corinthians 12:7

v. Mutual _____

“¹⁹ Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.” James 1:19

“³ Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.

⁴ Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.” Philippians 2:3-4

6. _____

“¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” Colossians 3:12

“²⁶ If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.” 1 Corinthians 12:26

“² Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2

“¹⁴ A despairing man should have the devotion of his friends, even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty.” Job 6:14

7. _____

“⁵ All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.' ⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.” 1 Peter 5:5

“¹⁶ Live in harmony with each other. Don't try to act important but enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!” Romans 12:16

How To Learn Humility:

i. Accept the _____

“² Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.” Ephesians 4:2

“¹ Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong. ... ² We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord.” Romans 14:1 & 15:2

ii. Recognize And Admit _____

“³ And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? ⁴How can you think of saying, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? ⁵Hypocrite! First get rid of the log from your own eye; then perhaps you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.” Matthew 7:3-5

“³¹ He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise.” Proverbs 15:31

iii. Give _____ To Others

³ *Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.*

⁴ *Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too." Philippians 2:3-4*

²⁴ *Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds." Hebrews 10:24*

8. _____

¹⁵ *We will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. Ephesians 4:15*

²³ *In the end, people appreciate frankness more than flattery." Proverbs 28:23*

⁵ *An open rebuke is better than hidden love!" Proverbs 27:5*

¹ *Dear brothers and sisters, if another Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.*

² *Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ." Galatians 6:1-2*

9. _____

¹³ *You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." Colossians 3:13*

⁵ *Love keeps no record of wrongs." 1 Corinthians 13:5*

¹⁴ *If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins." Matthew 6:14-15*

¹⁹ *My dear brothers and sisters, be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry." James 1:19*

10. _____

¹³ *A gossip goes around telling secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence." Proverbs 11:13*

²⁸ *A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends." Proverbs 16:28*

²⁰ *Fire goes out for lack of fuel, and quarrels disappear when gossip stops." Proverbs 26:20*

11. _____

¹² *Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." Colossians 3:12*

² *Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love." Ephesians 4:2*

¹⁸ *A hot-tempered person stirs up conflict, but the one who is patient calms a quarrel." Proverbs 15:18*

12. _____

¹⁰ *I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose." 1 Corinthians 1:10*

Protecting The Unity:

i. _____ For Your Church Family

“¹⁹ And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God’s mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike.” Ephesians 6:19

ii. Actively Defuse _____

“²⁹ Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.” Ephesians 4:19

“¹ Dear brothers and sisters, if another Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. ² Share each other’s troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:1-2

iii. _____ With Those Who Cause Divisions

“¹⁰ If anyone is causing divisions among you, give a first and second warning. After that, have nothing more to do with that person.” Titus 3:10

“¹⁶ There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: ¹⁷ haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, ¹⁹ a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.” Proverbs 6:16-19

“³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” John 13:34-35

iv. Reach Out To Those Who _____

“¹² If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost? ¹³ And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he will rejoice over it more than over the ninety-nine that didn’t wander away! ¹⁴ In the same way, it is not my heavenly Father’s will that even one of these little ones should perish.” Matthew 18:12-14