

Study 3



CORE VALUE 4

We value **one another**, and seek to **encourage one another** to grow in Christian maturity in everything we do.

Maybe you haven't realised - Church is all about "one another." If we're going to be clear about what we "value" as a church, then "one another" really should be on the list! As a church committed to "growing followers of Jesus," we all have a role to play in encouraging EACH OTHER towards the goal of becoming more Christ-like. Church, then, is not a "private thing." Church is not just about "me and God." It's a team sport and we're all to be actively involved.

Discuss

If going to church is about "me and God," what sort of experience will you be looking for? What sort of characteristics would you expect to see in the "church-time."

What sort of attitude would you expect to find in others taking part?

In Colossians 1:28, Paul describes his mission this way. "We proclaim him (Christ), admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may **present everyone mature in Christ**." ²⁹To this end I labour, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

The goal of all his labours is to see that people hear about Christ, respond to Christ, and grow to maturity in Christ. All of us have a part to play in encouraging one another towards this same maturity!

Not convinced that church is a team sport? Take a look through the following list of references (taken from the epistles) to get a feel for the significance of "one another."

As you read each verse, underline or circle the ACTION words...

Romans 12:10

Be devoted to **one another** in brotherly love. Honor **one another** above yourselves.

Romans 12:16

Live in harmony with **one another**. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. [12:16 Or willing to do menial work] Do not be conceited.

Romans 13:8

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love **one another**, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.

Romans 14:13

Therefore let us stop passing judgment on **one another**. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.

Romans 15:7

Accept **one another**, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Romans 15:14

I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct **one another**.

Galatians 5:13

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature ; rather, serve **one another** in love.

Ephesians 4:2

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with **one another** in love.

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind and compassionate to **one another**, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 5:19

Speak to **one another** with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:21

Submit to **one another** out of reverence for Christ.

Colossians 3:13

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against **one another**. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish **one another** with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage **one another** and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

From the action words you've highlighted, what sort of activities do you think would be involved in building others up to maturity?

What sort of things stop us seeing that we have a role in building up others, and actively doing it?

Consider...

Consider a church where people only come to have their own needs met. They want to feel close to God to “experience His Presence” in worship and song and prayer. They want to be fed from the Word. They want their kids to be part of a good Sunday School Program. And yet immediately after the “service,” they head for the carpark and leave for home. What's missing in this picture?

Read Hebrews 10:24-25. What are we to be “spurring one another on” towards?

What is the whole point of our “meeting together”? Why must you not get out of the habit?

In what practical ways do you demonstrate how much - or how little - you value others in your church family?

In what concrete ways could you aim to encourage someone else in our church towards Christian maturity?

Still to come in part 2...

CORE VALUES 5 and 6

We value all people, and aim to engage those outside the church with the person and claims of Jesus.

We value church activity which is welcoming and understandable to everyone.

CORE VALUE 7

We value practical love modeled on the sacrificial love of Christ, who gave himself for us.

CORE VALUES 8 and 9

We value team work, and encourage all followers of Jesus to play their part in building Christ's church.

We value the gifts, abilities and resources God has given us, and seek to use them adventurously, and to the very best of our ability, for His glory.

CORE VALUE 10 and 11

We value faithful ministry, and will seek to actively encourage and support those who give themselves to training for this task.

We value integrity and humility in our lives and seek leaders who demonstrate these qualities.

