

**Love and Serve One Another**  
**“One Anothering” Bible Study**  
**March/April 2023**

**Introduction to the Course**

What is God’s will concerning *how* believers are to grow?

**Love and Serve One Another - Primary text: Philippians 2:1-4**

*So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:1-4)*

16 times in the NT, the command is found: “Love one another.” But what does that look like?

***Because Christ put the need of sinners in front of his own, believers ought to consider others better than themselves. This class deals with the heart attitude: others first, pride must die.***

*“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.” (1 John 3:16)*

**The “One Others” about Loving and Serving**

*A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another**: just as I have loved you, you also are to **love one another**. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you **have love for one another**.” (John 13:34-35)*

***Love one another*** with brotherly affection. ***Outdo one another in showing honor***. (Romans 12:10)

*For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love **serve one another**. 14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Galatians 5:13-14)*

*with all humility and gentleness, with patience, **bearing with one another in love** (Ephesians 4:2)*

*Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 **bearing with one another** and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. (Colossians 3:12-13)*

***Be kind to one another**, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another**, as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)*

*Above all, **keep loving one another** earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 **Show hospitality to one another** without grumbling. (1 Peter 4:8-9)*

*Clothe yourselves, all of you, with **humility toward one another**, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” (1 Peter 5:5)*

### **Biblical Illustration: The Gospel of Jesus Christ**

*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:5-8)*

### **Applications**

1. Put selfishness and pride to death by fixing your eyes on Christ *daily*.
2. Treasure the gospel to apprehend God's love *for you*.
3. Let 1 Corinthians 13 be a guide to assess your love for others, asking probing questions:

*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13:1-7)*

Do I value gifts and talents over love for others? (v1-2) Do I sacrifice without love? (v3)

Am I patient and kind? (v4) Do I envy or boast, or am I arrogant or rude? (v4-5)

Do I insist on my way? (v5) Am I irritable or resentful? (v6) Do I rejoice at wrongdoing, or rejoice with truth? (v6) Do I dwell on the positive or negative in people? (v7)