



# The POWER of RELATIONSHIPS

## All the “ONE ANOTHER” Commands in the New Testament

“Love one another.” “Bear one another’s burdens.” “Forgive one another.” The New testament gives Christians a lot of “one another” instructions: Things we should all do as members of the family of God.

One another is two words in english  
but only one word in Greek...

αλλελον  
(al-LAY-lone)

**Allelon** is not a verb, but a reciprocal pronoun. It's not a specific “something” that we are told to do.

**100 times**, we are told to how to specifically focus on one another in The New Testament. The word **allelon** also means each other, mutually or reciprocally. It means that when one person does one of these directives to another person, that person should do it back to that person.

## Here’s an overview of how it’s applied in the New Testament

**100**

It’s used 100 times  
in 94 New  
Testament verses.

**47**

47 percent of those  
verses give instructions  
to followers of Jesus.

**60%**

Paul wrote 60% of  
those “one another”  
quotes.



**4** of these verses are about kissing.

(Sorry, worship leaders: They are neither “unforeseen,” nor “sloppy wet” kisses!)

## UNITY

One third of the “one another” commands deal  
with the church getting along

1. Be at peace with one another (Mk 9:50)
2. Don’t grumble among one another (Jn 6:43)
3. Be of the same mind with one another (Ro 12:6, 15:5)
4. Accept one another (Ro 15:7)
5. Wait for one another before receiving communion (1 Co 11:33)
6. Don’t bite, devour or consume one another (Ga 5:15)
7. Don’t challenge or envy one another (Ga 5:26)
8. Gently, patiently tolerate one another (Ep 4:2)
9. Be kind, tenderhearted and forgiving to one another (Ep 4:32)
10. Seek good for one another, and don’t repay evil for evil (1 Th 5:15)
11. Don’t complain against one another (Ja 4:11, 5:9)
12. Confess sins to one another (Ja 5:16)

- **Love One Another!** One-third of the “one another” commands instruct Christians to love one another.

- Love one another (Jn 13:34, 15:12, 17, Ro 13:8, 1 Th 3:12, 4:9, 1 Pe 1:22, 1 Jn 3:11, 4:7, 11, 2 Jn 5)
- Through love, serve one another (Gal 5:13)
- Tolerate one another in love (Ep 4:2)
- Greet one another with a kiss of love (1 Pe 5:14)
- Be devoted to one another in love (Ro 12:10)

- **Humility.** About 15% stress an attitude of humility and deference among believers.

- Give preference to one another in honor (Ro 12:10)
- Regard one another as more important than yourselves (Php 2:3)
- Serve one another (Ga 5:13)
- Wash one another's feet (Jn 13:14)
- Don't be haughty: be of the same mind (Ro 12:16)
- Be subject to one another (Ep 5:21)
- Clothe yourselves in humility toward one another (1 Pe 5:5)

- **Here are the rest:**

- Do not judge one another, and don't put a stumbling block in a brother's way (Ro 14:13)
- Greet one another with a kiss (Ro 16:16; 1 Co 16:20; 2 Co 13:12)
- Husbands and wives: don't deprive one another of physical intimacy (1 Co 7:5)
- Bear one another's burdens (Ga 6:2)
- Speak truth to one another (Ep 4:25)
- Don't lie to one another (Co 3:9)
- Comfort one another concerning the resurrection (1 Th 4:18)
- Encourage and build up one another (1 Th 5:11)
- Stimulate one another to love and good deeds (He 10:24)
- Pray for one another (Jas 5:16)
- Be hospitable to one another (1 Pe 4:9)
- Of course, Jesus and the apostles give many more instructions to the church; these “one another” passages are a good start, though.

- **Where do we see POWER in relationships?**

**What are we talking about when we say relationships can be “powerful?”** Left to themselves, all relationships will default to human effort and strength. There's nothing necessarily wrong with leaning on our own strength to be kind to one another, encourage one another or even love one another. But there is a higher level of relationship available to Jesus followers because of their access to the enabling power of the Holy Spirit that dwells within them. For believers, our relationships can be enabled and empowered by the **grace** (*charis*...gift) available to us as a manifestation of the Spirit of God in us!

It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. (Zech. 4:6 NLT-SE)

When the Holy Spirit is working through us to love others, a remarkable “power” is available to us that raises the potential for our relationships to exceed anything we could possibly accomplish on our own. Our relationship with one another become pregnant with divine possibilities!



## **POWERFUL RELATIONSHIPS** can manifest...

- **When we place a high value on time together**

- **Time is like a precious jewel to the Lord.** When we place our highest value on what he values, a powerful door of possibilities opens for us. It's about showing up for one another, not just for ourselves.
  - <sup>15</sup> Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (Eph. 5:15–17 ESV)
- Jesus is *not* trying to coerce or shame us into doing “one another,” but is enticing us into a reality that he knows will change our lives forever. A key to discovering these relationships and living them out day-by-day is **establishing a disruptive value** for spending time together.

- **When we understand that “Iron sharpening iron” is a gift from God**

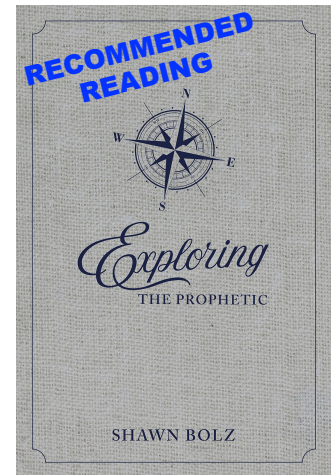
- Northwesterners are an independent people. We like to call the shots and really bristle when doing life with one another threatens our independence. **God has provided a way for us and excellent way to remove the “stickery” parts.**
  - As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend. (Prov. 27:17 NLT-SE)
- If we choose to go under the knife by allowing one another to influence the way we do life in a meaningful ways, something beautiful happens. **By his grace, the rough edges come off both of us.** We experience the powerful dynamic of iron sharpening iron.

- **When we contend for a “Culture of Honor”**

- Honesty, authenticity and courage can serve as accelerants that will ignite the relational fire God wants to create in and through our lives. In John 17, Jesus says...
  - <sup>21</sup> I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. <sup>22</sup> “I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. <sup>23</sup> I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. (John. 17:21–23 NLT-SE)
- **It is the powerful experience of a wineskin** that is fully capable to carry and release the outpouring that God has promised to us all along—an outpouring for which we were made. But only honor will build this wineskin, keep it intact, and get us involved with what is inside it. ~ Danny Silk, **Culture of Honor: Sustaining a Supernatural Environment**

- **When we intentionally mine the “GOLD” in one another**

- What we are looking for in one another are the “**Gracelets**” of God, the spiritual gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit to empower us to glorify Jesus on the earth.
- <sup>24</sup> Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. <sup>25</sup> 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. (Heb. 10:24-25 NLT-SE)
- The thing we’re searching for, the “gold” that is waiting to be pulled out of one another, is not who we are, but who God is in us. This “gold” is the manifestation of the Spirit that might lead to...the next medical breakthrough...the next brilliant entrepreneurial endeavor...or the next Foster home that saves a child’s life. The “gold” is the Jesus in you and I, the hope of glory!
- <sup>8</sup> Keep your thoughts continually fixed on all that is authentic and real, honorable and admirable, beautiful and respectful, pure and holy, merciful and kind. And **fasten your thoughts on every glorious work of God**, praising him always. <sup>9</sup> Follow the example of all that we have imparted to you and the God of peace will be with you in all things. (Phil. 4:8-9 TPT)



**Exploring the Prophetic: A 90-Day Devotional**, by Shawn Bolz

- **When we initiate and nurture multi-generational relationships**

- There’s power in **creating relational bridges between the generations**. Most people tend to define relationships through their own personal filters. We struggle to understand why others don’t see things just like we do. This can be amplified between generations. We seldom really understand how people who are older or younger think about things like values, priorities, or cultural norms.
- The key to building these powerful relationships hinges on two things...**vulnerability** and **honor**. Are we willing to take a risk and let those who are older or younger than us see that we are willing to learn and grow? Are we willing to position ourselves walk with people who think differently and live life with a different set of expectations than we do? Are we willing to set aside our God-given right to be the most spiritual person in the room?
- **Vulnerability** = Uncertainty, risk, emotional exposure. ~ *Brene’ Brown*
- **Honor** = A culture of honor is created as a community of people learns to discern and receive people in their God-given identities. ~ *Danny Silk*
- There is a reason why Yahweh referred to himself as “**the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob**.” He wanted his people to know that a key component of their identity was tied to the family they belonged to, not what they had accomplished for God. One of the greatest weaknesses of the contemporary church is that the generations don’t seem to need each other. **The truth is, there are some things the church WILL NOT experience unless we honor and respect those who have gone before us and those who will follow after.**