

How to be a Healthy Follower pt 6: Authentic Fellowship

The Bible says that our relationship with God must be reflected in our relationships with each other. **Why is this?** **What evidence** would you point to in the Bible to indicate that our life together is important? [God called a nation to reach the nations, a community to reach a community. The way God's people treated each other and those who were foreigners in their land was supposed to demonstrate the kind of love and grace that they had been shown by their God. Matthew 22:36- 40 (the two great commandments). John 13:35, 17:20ff.]

How do the one another statements in the NT enable us to become healthy, thriving and vibrant followers of Jesus - the best version of ourselves?

love one another (John 13:35 - this command comes 16 times)

honour one another **above yourselves** (Romans 12:10)

build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)

be likeminded towards one another (Romans 15:5) (unity)

accept one another (Romans 15:7)

admonish one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)

care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)

bear one another's **burdens** (Galatians 6:2)

forgive one another (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)

be patient with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)

be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32)

speak to one another **with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs** (Ephesians 5:19) (how we encourage one another)

submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5)

consider others **better than yourselves** (Philippians 2:3)

bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)

comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)

stir up one another **to love and good works** (Hebrews 10:24)

employ the gifts that God has given us for the benefit of one another (1 Peter 4:10)

clothe yourselves with humility towards one another (1 Peter 5:5)

confess our faults to one another (James 5:16)

be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)

live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)

serve one another (Galatians 5:13)

look to the interests of one another (Philippians 2:4)

teach one another (Colossians 3:16)

encourage one another (Hebrews 3:13)

show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)

pray for one another (James 5:16)

We are to do these things because we **belong** to one another (Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:25).

What role does the "congregation" have in helping us to follow Jesus? What can a group of this size do well and what things can't it do so well? What role does the "Core Group" have in helping us to follow Jesus? What can a group of this size do well and what things can't it do so well?

Do you ever think it can be a bad witness to prioritise meeting together with other Christians? In what ways might it be a good witness? How do we get it right?!

What's the difference between disclosure and accountability? How do we move from mere disclosure to accountability?

How does Christian community (at whatever level) help us to be reminded of the gospel and to believe the things that God says in His Word?

What's your next step in this journey?