“One-Anothers” of the Bible

Many American’s pride themselves in being rugged individualists. They think they really don’t need anyone but themselves.

The Old Song by Simon and Farfunkle - I am a Rock, I am an Island. A rock feels no pain. And an Island never cries.

The truth is – we need each other. None of us is a rock or an island...
I remember at camp as a kid singing a son. It wasn’t necessarily a Christian song... but the words went,

“No man is an island. No man stands alone.
Each man’s joy is joy to me, each man’s grief if my own.
We need one-another, so I will defend.
Each man as my brother, each man as my friend.”

God made us relational people who, whether we are willing to admit it or not, need one another. And the New Testament of the Bible is full of one-anothers, instructing us how to live with each other in a way that pleases God. It is the purpose of this message to look at some of those one-anothers and to ask ourselves, how are we doing in regard to living them out and making them a reality in our everyday lives. As we incorporate the one-anothers of the Bible, we will live the way Jesus did. We will reflect His character to a watching world, and we will likely find that our relationships with others are better, so let’s dig in.

Some of the one-anothers are very positive. They are things we should do. Some are negative. They are things we are to avoid. Let’s start with the positives.
Positive – Do this

1. Love one another – John 13:34,35
John 13:34-35 - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. [35] "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

The love that Jesus refers to is agape – selfless love. Loving others because it is the right thing to do, not because we can get something from them. Agape is loving others expecting nothing in return. This is the foundation of the one-anothers.

Romans 13:8 – “Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.”

Romans 12:10 – “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.”

Devoted = kindly affection – fond of natural relatives

2 Thes. 1:3 – “We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater.”

1 Peter 4:8-10 – “Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. [9] Be hospitable to one another without complaint. [10] As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”
1 Peter 1:22 – “Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, “

2. **Give preference to one another in honor** – Romans 12:10 – Romans 12:10 – “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.”
Philip. 2:3 – “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.”

- Let someone go ahead of you in line. You don’t always have to be first.
- Give someone else the better piece of steak or chicken.
- Don’t demand your own way.
- Don’t cut cars off on the freeway. Let someone in infront of you.
- Open the door for your spouse.

Be humble. Jesus was humble in heart and sought to serve rather than to be served.

3. **Be of the same mind toward one another** – Romans 12:16
Romans 12:16 – “Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.”
Romans 15:5 – “Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus.”
Philip. 2:3 - “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;”

One of the greatest lies in the world today is, “It’s all about me.” Actually it is all about the Lord and serving Him in humility.

Story of football player...

4. **Build up one another**

Romans 14:19 – “So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.”

Edify = building up – from the word meaning to be a house builder

One key way we build up one another is with our words. Ephes. 4:29 states, “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.”

Grace *charis, khar'-ece*; from Greek 5463 (chairo); *graciousness* (as *gratifying*), of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including *gratitude*) :- acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, grace (-ious), joy, liberality, pleasure, thank (-s, -worthy).

Encouragement goes hand in hand with building up those around us. Cheer them on. Rejoice with them when something good happens to them. Weep with them when they are going through tough times.
1 Thes. 5:11 – “Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.”

Encourage = *parakalew* – one who comes alongside and spurs another on to greater heights

Hebrews 10:24-25 – “And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, [25] not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

5. **Admonish one another – Rm 15:14**

Romans 15:14 – “And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.”

Admonish = to caution, to reprove gently

Galatians 6:1 - “Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.”

James 5:16 – “Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”

6. **Bearing with one another and forgiving one another**

Col. 3:13 - “bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.”

Ephes. 4:2 – “…with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love.”
the word bearing - **anechomai,** an-ekh'-om-ahee; middle from Greek 303 (ana) and Greek 2192 (echo); to **hold oneself up** against, i.e. (figurative) **put up** with: - bear with, endure, forbear, suffer.

Sometimes it is not easy putting up with each other but God calls us to do it. Remember, people put up with you!

Show cat and dog picture

Ephes. 4:32 – “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

7. **Accept one another – Rm 15:7**
Romans 15:7 – “Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.”
Accept = to take to oneself

Negative - Don’t do this

1. **Do not bite and devour one another – Gal 5:15**
Galatians 5:15 – “But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.”

2. **Do not challenge or envy one another – Gal 5:26**
Galatians 5:26 – “Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.”

3. **Do not lie to one another – Col 3:9**
Col. 3:9 – “Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices,”
4. Do not speak against one another – Js 4:11
James 4:11 - “Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it.”

Why all the “One-Another”s”?

1. God did them for us –
John 13:34-35 - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. [35] "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Romans 15:7 – “Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.”

Ephes. 4:32 – “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

Col. 3:13 - “bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.”

God set the example for us so we would do the same. That is what a good parent does, and He is the best.

2. People will see that we are Christ’s disciples -
John 13:34-35 - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. [35] "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
Doing the one-anthers is a great witness...

Edgar Guest’s poem
I’d rather see a sermon, than hear one any day.
I’d rather one would walk with me than merely show the way.

3. We are members of one another – Eph 4:25
Ephes. 4:25 – “Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each ONE of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.”

We are part of the same family – God’s family.
We are part of the same body – Christ’s body – the church. As someone said, “Since we’re both part of God’s family, you don’t have to like me, you’ve got to love me!

4. It creates great unity
1 Cor. 12:25 – “…so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.”

1 Peter 4:8-10 – “Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. [9] Be hospitable to one another without complaint. [10] As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

1 John 1:7 – “But if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”
5. It may save us from judgment
   James 5:9 – “Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door. “

Conclusion
In our humanness we will fall short, but that does not mean we should give up – We can only fully do these things through God’s power working in us – Rm 15:5!
Verses

John 13:34-35 - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. [35] "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Romans 12:10 – “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.”

Romans 12:16 – “Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.”

Romans 13:8 – “Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.”

Romans 14:13 – “Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother’s way.”

Romans 14:19 – “So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.”

Romans 15:5 – “Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus.”

Romans 15:7 – “Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.”
Romans 15:14 – “And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.”

Romans 16:16 – “Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.” 1 Cor. 16:20 – “All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.” 2 Cor. 13:12 – “Greet one another with a holy kiss.” 1 Peter 5:14 - “Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace be to you all who are in Christ.”

1 Cor. 11:33 – “So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.”

1 Cor. 12:25 – “…so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.”

Galatians 5:13 – “For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

Galatians 5:15 – “But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.”

Galatians 5:26 – “Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.”

Ephes. 4:2 – “…with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love.”

Ephes. 4:25 – “Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each ONE of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.”
Ephes. 4:32 – “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

Ephes. 5:19 – “...speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord.”

Ephes. 5:21 – “...and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.”

Philip. 2:3 – “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.”

Col. 3:9 – “Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices,”

Col. 3:13 - “bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.”

Col. 3:16 – “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

1 Thes. 3:12 – “And may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you.”

1 Thes. 4:9 – “Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.”
1 Thes. 4:18 – “Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

1 Thes. 5:11 – “Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.”

1 Thes. 5:13 – “And that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.”

1 Thes. 5:15 – “See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.”

2 Thes. 1:3 – “We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater.”

Titus 3:3 - “For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.”

Hebrews 3:13 – “But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”

Hebrews 10:24-25 – “And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, [25] not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

James 4:11 - “Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against
the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it.”

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1 Peter 5:5 – “You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

1 John 1:7 – “But if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

1 John 3:11 – “For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.”

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1 John 3:23 – “This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.”

1 John 4:7 – “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”

1 John 4:11-12 – “Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. [12] No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.”

2 John 1:5 – “Now I ask you, lady, not as though I were writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another.”