

LIFE TOGETHER: The One Another's of Scripture

“SERVE One Another” (1 Peter 4:6-11)

Puzzle/Instruction manual Picture: What is it supposed to look like?) The Church....

-**WHAT?** = for the Father's Glory, *IN* Christ and under His Headship, with the power of the Holy Spirit **the Church is** a gathering of *baptized Believers for worship and work* to pursue the glory & mission of God. (=Loving & making disciples)

The **church** is a local, biblical community that is spiritually & relationally connected in unity to love & serve the Lord and each other. That's what the church is....Now **HOW?** How do we do it?

-**HOW? What are the Instructions to help us create the right local church body? =Bible** (We have to get this right!!) = we follow the biblical instructions = **Key ingredients/parts**

1. **UNITY** (The Church's Unity is found in RIGHT relationships):

A. Right relationship to the **Triune God** (model of perfect unity) =Know intimately=Rel.

B. Right relationship to God's **MISSION** (His purpose for our lives) =Calling as Believers

= When Believers are rightly aligned to the SAME God & His Mission – they can be in right

C. Right relationship **To one another** & pursue unity in their same purpose & calling

2. **COMMUNITY** = Unity creates a community = everyone bonded over a common experience & purpose. Community = common (Acts 2:42) =they **share** a specific characteristic =each rescued

- each of us have a story of being rescued by Jesus. (If NOT, today is the day!!) – **Gospel!**

3. **MISSION** – a unifying purpose, something bigger than themselves, an eternal responsibility to LOVE, SERVE, and share God's love with others. = Action (not just a philosophy/ideas).

=**The church is a local, biblical community that is spiritually & relationally connected in unity to love & serve the Lord and each other**

MAIN POINT: The biblical command to Love God and Others is best displayed through intentional biblical community where we know, love, serve, and sacrifice for each other.

-Love One another (we love God because He first loved us) 1John 4:19

-Serve One another (we serve others, because Jesus first came to serve us) Phil. 2:4-11

Serve One Another:

-Gal. 5:13-15 “For you were called to freedom, brothers *and sisters*; only *do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love.* ¹⁴ For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

-Mk 10:43-45 “whoever wants to become ⁴⁴prominent among you shall be your servant; ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first among you shall be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His ⁴⁵life as a ransom for many.”

- We know we are called to LOVE God and others; we are called to SERVE, but **HOW?**

READ 1 Peter 4:6-11

“For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead (sp.), that though they are judged in the flesh as people, that they may live in the spirit according to *the*

will of God. ⁷ The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober *spirit* for the purpose of ^gprayer. ⁸ 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 ^hmultifaceted grace of God. ¹¹ Whoever speaks *is to do so as one who is speaking* actual words of God; whoever serves *is to do so as one who is serving* ⁱby the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and ^jdominion forever and ever. Amen.” **So what do we notice here in this passage??**

Vs. 4: “For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead (sp.), that though they are judged in the flesh as people, that they may live in the spirit according to *the will of God.* =Everything we do as Believers is B/C of the gospel (good News of Christ’s perfect work on the cross that sinners may have life through His death, and that our new spiritual lives may count for eternity in HOW (through His Spirit) we demonstrate our love for God, and love for His church, and love for the lost world). The gospel is the KEY
-Rom. 1:16 “unashamed of the gospel b/c it is the power of God for salvation”
-**We LOVE** because the power of the gospel has changed our hearts from death/life; from despair/hope; from independence/dependence; from self-centered/others’ focused
-**We SERVE** because the power of the gospel has changed our **motivation** & **vision** to see others, to see their needs, their hurts, their wants, their brokenness, their challenges AND the gospel is the power to help us meet those needs in the same way & same power that Jesus did for us: We love by giving the gospel away. We serve by living out the gospel to watching world.

Vs. 7: *The end of all things is near;* = you feeling some of that??? So because God has our attention now... **so now what????**

- *therefore, be of sound judgment* (WISE) and *sober spirit* (awake, alert, apprised of what’s really going on here, around us, spiritual warfare for souls of men) **for the purpose of prayer.**
= our notice of world spinning out of control = wise decisions now (family), alert & informed praying. We NEED God; We depend solely on God to move/answer/change us – others

Vs. 8: Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Love is the divine gift of Himself that we give to others (love has no meaning if it is not given away; love’s very design is to be expressed for another = sacrifice/service/presence)
Love is our command. Love is our motivation. Love is our power that is not of this world!

Vs. 9: Be hospitable to one another without complaint. Kind, welcoming, gracious, connecting

Vs. 10: *As each one has received a special gift* (spiritual gifting), employ/USE it in serving one another as good stewards of the multifaceted grace of God. We are stewards of both the spiritual gifting and God’s grace on loan to us to **SHARE** with others = Mission of God!!!

Vs. 11: *Whoever speaks is to do so as one who is speaking* actual words of God (let your words that you share serve hearts with spiritual nourishment & encouragement); *whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving* by the strength which God supplies; (our serving, our ministry, our encouraging, our blessing of others is to be rooted in the Holy Spirit as our strength)

so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and ^ldominion forever and ever. Amen.”

So... GOD is glorified **when we know what is really happening in the world around us (i.e. what's really at stake spiritually – schools, society, church) = **what is true, good, eternal...**
-When we are sober-minded, alert spiritually, in-tune w/His word & our world & we PRAY
-When we leverage our lives to love others, welcome them into our lives, groups, families
-When we know and use our spiritual gifting to bless others in meaningful ways
-When we steward God's grace He has given to us by giving it away to others
-When we give away that grace **through serving others' needs** in the name of Jesus and in His full power, the power of the Holy Spirit = perfectly timed, applied, and received = God's glory!

So, as the world winds down, and as the world spirals out of control, the Church shines brighter in the darkness – our light is divine love & service

* **SERVING = Sacrificial acts to bless others with no expectation of return**

APPLICATION: HOW do we *serve* one another? In order to truly serve...

1. I must be willing to get to **know** someone to understand their needs (relationship/social, spiritual, emotional, mental, or physical needs) i.e. **food; in-reach/notes of encouragement**
2. I must be willing to **engage** with their **need** – I must care, and want to see the need met
3. I must be willing to **find the resources**/sacrifice my resources to meet that need, even though it may **cost** me something (time, effort, giving up something else, money, comfort, success, failed expect., relational stress) = to serve another w/ God's love = sacrifice -**cost**
4. I must be willing to **follow up** and follow through with my commitment to help = do it!
5. I must be willing to serve with **JOY** – this is my act of worship unto the Lord = I must serve out a heartfelt motivation of God's glory (as unto the Lord) and love for this precious soul = they are worth my best effort.

MAIN POINT: The biblical command to Love God and Others is best displayed through intentional biblical community where we know, love, serve, and sacrifice for each other

-Key Ingredients for the local church: **UNITY, COMMUNITY, MISSION:**

-Are you in right relationship with God? Do you have unity with the Trinity? In Union w/Christ?

-Are you in right relationship with His Church? The local Body?

-WHERE are you connected? **Are you IN Community?** (= **Life TOGETHER**) =we need each other.

-Where are you actively on Mission with the Lord?

=Who are you loving well?(showing Christ's love?)

=Who are you serving well? (Dispensing God's grace actively through ministry)

-**Who are you investing in spiritually?** Who will be forever changed by your sp. investment?

Community Group Discussion Questions:

1. What has been the best part of being a member of a community group?

2. What do you think the community group can do better to show love to each other? Serve?

3. What was impactful about 1 Peter 4:6-11? What stood out to you? Convicted you?

4. According to Peter, how does being near to “end times” aid our ministry/service to others?

5. What is your community group's plan to serve together within the Church? Outreach?