



**NEW
LIFE
IN CHRIST**

Volume 3

Living together with each other



*international ministry supernatural
prophetic generation*

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TEACHER'S GUIDE



1. We congratulate you for accepting the challenge of discipling new believers using New Life in Christ as your guide. The results of this study can produce eternal fruit.
2. Let the Bible always be your authority in answering the questions. The students should look up the Bible passages by themselves and try to answer the questions based on what the Bible says.

Some new believers need a brief orientation on how to find the references in their Bibles.
3. This manual may be used in many different ways. In most cases, you will study one lesson a week, encouraging the disciple to do all the assignments in each lesson.
4. Try not to let your sessions get too long. Keep an eye on your audience's attention span.
5. Encourage the students to answer the questions in their own words. Avoid copying the Bible word for word. Using their own words will help them to analyze the meaning of the texts studied.
6. Avoid preaching. Use questions to discover what the students understand and to stimulate active participation.
7. Prepare well for each session yourself. As the teacher, you should be familiar with the content and key concepts of each lesson.

Your preparation should include prayer for your students and for your own heart to be prepared for the lesson.

8. Try to have the students think about the practical implications for their lives. Help them to understand specific, practical applications.



Each lesson has sections marked by a STOP sign. These are designed for the student to stop and think about the implications of the lesson for their lives. Take time to meditate on these sections.

The assignments in the boxes at the side of each lesson are designed for this purpose. Make use of them.

9. Help students cultivate the habit of prayer. Teach them by praying together with them.
10. It is important to understand that discipleship is much more than studying the lessons of New Life in Christ. Discipleship implies a life change for the disciple.

This manual is just an initial help. The students need continual help in seeking to change their character, ways of thinking, habits, etc.
11. It is of the utmost importance that disciples learn habits like daily Bible reading, prayer, and Scripture memorization.

At the beginning of each lesson, take time to review the previous memory verse and ask them how the daily Bible study is going. Do not scold students who have not completed some of the assignments, but be sure to encourage them to finish.
12. Be sensitive to what God is doing in the disciple's life. Take time out of each session to answer any questions they might have, or to help with facing problems in their personal life.

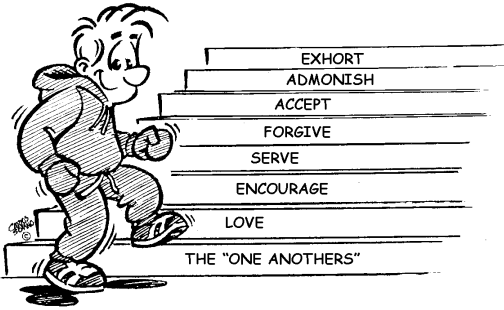
Keep in mind that there are times when it is not possible to get to every question in the lesson because of lack of time. In these cases, choose the questions of most importance to discuss.



**“Do to others as
you would have
them do to you.”
Luke 6:31**

Step 1

The "one anothers"



TRUE OR FALSE

- _____ We should treat others the same way they treat us.
 _____ As long as I don't hurt anyone, I'm doing all that God asks of me.
 _____ Christians are called to support their brothers in Christ.

WORKING TOGETHER

A missionary in Africa watched two lepers planting seed in a field. One of them had no hands because they had been consumed by leprosy. The other had lost his feet to that terrible disease. The leper without hands carried on his shoulders the one without feet. The one with hands carried a sack of seed from which he dropped seeds to the ground, while the other leper used his feet to press them into the soil.

Together they were able to do the work of one healthy man.¹

When we come to Christ, we become part of his Church, with brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. The Church is our new family, refuge and support group. But as with all families, we sometimes struggle to get along with each other because we are all so different. How can we live together in unity? Let's look at some of the rules God has given us that will help us to be at peace with one another.

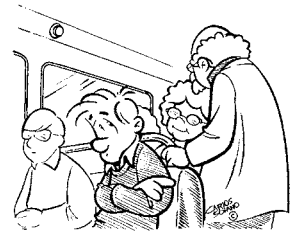
THE GOLDEN RULE

1. Luke 6:31 contains what we call "the golden rule." Summarize in your own words what it says.

2. Let's look at the implications of the golden rule in the following passages:

Luke 6:27 _____ your _____ and do _____ to those who _____.

Luke 6: 28 _____ those who _____ and _____ for those who _____.



Obedying this command of Christ is more than **not hurting others**, it means to **treat them well**, as you would like to be treated. We shouldn't harm others; but the golden rule goes one step further, exhorting us to handle them with love and mercy, even when they treat us badly.



This symbol signals you to **STOP** for a moment. Take time to reflect about the following:

How do you want others to treat you? Is that the same way you treat them?

Think of a time this week when you felt bad about the way you acted toward someone.

What could you have done to treat him better?

HOW SHOULD WE TREAT EACH OTHER?

The "one anothers": There are many passages in scripture that use the phrase "one another." Each of them helps to clarify how to obey the golden rule and thus live in harmony with "one another." Write out the command or commands mentioned in each of the following passages:

3. Mark 9:50 _____

THINK ABOUT IT

John F. Kennedy once said:
"...ask not what your country can
do for you; ask what you can do
for your country."

Think about the implications for
your life if you were to say, "ask
not what other Christians can do
for you; ask what you can do for
them."



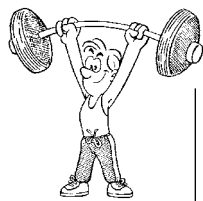
SERVING OTHERS

What gifts do you have that will
help you to serve others? Ask
your pastor or a mature Christian
to suggest ways you might serve
in your church.

- 4. John 13:34 _____
- 5. Romans 14:13 _____
instead _____
- 6. Romans 12:15 _____
and _____
- 7. Romans 15:1 _____
- 8. Romans 15:2 _____
- 9. Romans 15:7 _____
- 10. Romans 15:14 _____
- 11. Romans 16:16 _____
- 12. Galatians 5:13 _____
- 13. Galatians 5:26 _____
- 14. Galatians 6:2 _____
- 15. Ephesians 4:2 _____
- 16. Colossians 3:13 _____
- 17. Colossians 3:16 _____
- 18. 1 Thessalonians 4:18 _____
- 19. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 _____ & _____
- 20. Hebrews 10:24-25 _____
& _____
- 21. James 5:16 _____ & _____
- 22. 1 Peter 4:9 _____

GROWING STRONGER

Read
Galatians 1-6
and Titus this week
(one chapter per day).



Memorize Luke 6:31.

"Do to others as you would
have them do to you."



Up to this point, how have you lived as a Christian? Have you been
more concerned about your own growth or helping others grow?

On a scale of one to ten—ten being the best—grade yourself on how well you
have followed the "one anothers." 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Choose one of the characteristics mentioned in this lesson that you could
emphasize this week. Which one? _____

How could you use this characteristic this week to help you connect with other
believers? Be specific. _____

Step 2

Love one another



TRUE OR FALSE

- Loving other Christians will show the world that we really are God's children.
- You can love God and hate someone at the same time.
- True love is seen by our actions, not just our words.

LOVING MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS

While we should love all men, we are called especially to love our brothers and sisters in Christ (1 Peter 2:17). As a family, we are responsible to care for and support each other. Our church body should be a refuge where we experience the unity and love that is so rare in the world today.

1. Why is loving other believers so important? John 13:34-35

v. 34 _____

v. 35 _____

Loving other believers is not just a command, it is like a uniform which **identifies us as followers of Christ, and distinguishes us** from those who do not know him.

2. Who is our model with respect to love? v. 34 _____.



Romans 5:6-8 states that God loves us, not because we are worthy, but because of his grace. Love is his true nature (1 John 4:8). Christ's love thinks about others, while worldly love is selfish, asking, "What's in it for me?" Think about your love for your Christian brothers and sisters. Can it be called unselfish, or unconditional? Do you think more about others or more about yourself?

3. Love is more than just a warm feeling towards others; it demands action. If we want to love as Christ loved, what do we need to do? John 15:10 _____

4. Love is our **spiritual thermometer**. What do you think about someone who claims to be a good Christian, yet hates his brother? 1 John 2:9-10 _____



5. 1 John 3:18 Let us not love _____ but with _____ and _____

What's the difference between love with words and love with actions and in truth? _____

Do you sometimes pretend to love others when you really don't? The following questions will help understand what true love requires.

LOVE AND SACRIFICE

6. According to 1 John 3:16, how can we demonstrate our love? _____

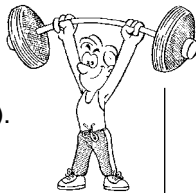
Does that mean we must literally die for others? _____

7. What example is given of laying down one's life for another? v. 17 _____

Ignoring others' needs shows that we really don't have as much love as we would like to think.

GROWING STRONGER

Read Romans 12,
2 John, 3 John,
Jude y 2 Peter 1-3
(one chapter a day).



Memorize 1 John 3:16

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers."

THINK ABOUT IT

Love is more than just a good feeling toward others. It involves an act of the will. Matthew 5:42-48 tells us that God causes the sun to shine on both the evil and the good. We are called to love our enemies, as well as our friends. This means forgive them, pray for them, and treat them well when the occasion arises.

Make a plan of how you could be reconciled with those you have had conflicts with. Remember that reconciliation includes asking for forgiveness as well as forgiving.

Review the two lessons on forgiveness in Volume 2

Write down your plan on a separate sheet of paper.



OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD.

8. Give other examples of how you might lay down your life for others.

9. The second commandments says: "love your neighbor as yourself." When someone asked: "And who is my neighbor," Jesus answered with the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Read Luke 10:30-37.

Which person in this parable really loved his neighbor? _____

How do you know? _____

10. Even though the priest and the Levite had nothing to do with the man's beating, can we say they were better than the thieves? Why? _____

Although **indifference** doesn't seem so bad, it is really just another type of abuse because it shows a lack of love for others. Even though the Samaritan wasn't from that neighborhood, he showered the wounded man with compassion. He understood that his "neighbor" was really whichever needy person God put in his path.

Someone has summarized the attitudes of the parable's characters:

- The thieves: "Whatever is yours is mine."
- The priest and Levite: "Whatever is ours is ours."
- The Samaritan: "Whatever is **mine is yours.**"



Think about how you treat others. Write down which of these three attitudes best describes you relationship with your:

Family _____

Co-workers or fellow students _____

Members of your church _____

WHAT IF THEY DON'T TREAT ME RIGHT?

*"Anyone who proposes to do good must not expect people to roll stones out of his way, but must accept his lot calmly if they even roll a few more upon it."*²

11. Read Romans 12:17-21. How should we respond to those who mistreat us, according to the following verses?

v. 17 _____

v. 18 _____

v. 19 _____

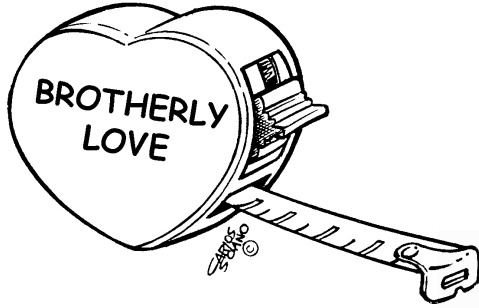
v. 21 _____



We can overcome evil with good. How successful have you been in doing that? _____ . If your answer is "not very,"who are you at odds with? _____

What good thing could you do this week to ease the tensions with that person?

Step 3 More about love



TRUE OR FALSE

- _____ *Instead of protecting love, jealousy will destroy it.*
- _____ *True love overlooks others' faults.*
- _____ *A desire to acquire things can hurt my ability to develop healthy relationships with others.*

TAKING THE MEASURE OF TRUE LOVE

1. What is love? 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 describes true love, listing fifteen characteristics — seven positive and eight negative. Write them down.

Love is: _____

Love is not: _____

2. What does the Bible mean when it says love is patient, or long suffering? v.4 _____

3. If love "does not envy," what does it want for others? v.4 _____

4. If love is not self-seeking, what then does it seek? v.5 _____



Which of the characteristics from this list do you need to work on most? _____

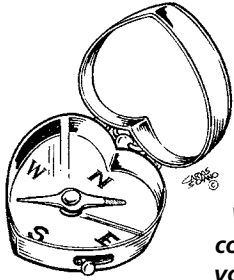
Think about how these qualities affect you.

5. List the characteristics of love from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 that counter the following errors.

- _____ I'll never forgive him for what he did to me.
- _____ Why is Jane so popular when I've achieved the same things?
- _____ I can't stand my little brothers. They are always bothering me.
- _____ My husband is a loser. He'll never amount to much.
- _____ Why should I help Pete out when I've got needs of my own to take care of?
- _____ Our worship group is much better than theirs. They can't even carry a tune.
- _____ I don't need anyone's help to get things done.
- _____ Ha! They fired John. I never did like him anyway.
- _____ I hope they kick him out so I can take his place.
- _____ Everything about Martha bugs me, even the way she dresses.

THIS WEEK

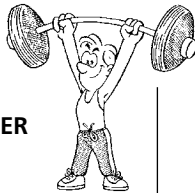
Christian music is a powerful tool to help us grow. This week learn a song with words that deal with love among fellow Christians.



What course is your life taking?

It is easy to get lost along the way, loving the world and what it offers instead of loving your neighbor. Love is like a compass that can get us back on track.

We clash with others when we give priority to acquiring things instead of building positive relationships with people.



GROWING STRONGER

Read Hebrews 11-12 and 1 Peter 1-5 this week (one chapter a day).

Memorize John 13:35.

“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

LIVING TOGETHER IN LOVE

6. Romans 12:10 tells us to be devoted to each other in brotherly love. What does this include, according to the last part of the verse? _____

7. Read Galatians 5:14-16. In spite of the command to love their neighbor, what do some do? v. 15 _____

What did Paul mean by “bite and devour”? _____

How can we overcome the desire to destroy others? v.16 _____

Look at Step 5 in Volume 1 to review what it means to walk in the Spirit.

8. How can love help us to live together? 1 Peter 4:8 _____

Explain the meaning of “love covers a multitude of sins.” _____

True love is not conditioned on the behavior of others; instead, it loves in spite of their faults. Christ gave his life for the just and the unjust. His sacrifice is an example of how to love by giving ourselves in service to one another.

9. Read Peter’s story in John 21:15-17. Even though Peter had denied Christ three times, what job did Jesus entrust to him? _____

10. Name something that we should not love. 1 Juan 2:15 _____

11. According to James 4:1-2, what is the cause of many conflicts? _____



Loving the things of the world affects our ability to love one another. We clash with others when we give priority to acquiring things instead of building positive relationships with people. Are there things that are hindering your relationship with others? List them.

12. As Christians, we love one another, but what type of reception should we expect from unbelievers? 1 John 3:13 _____

Why? v. 12 _____

Although many unbelievers belittle us and even hate us, we still need to love them, pray for them and share the good news with them, just as Jesus did.

Step 4

Encourage one another



TRUE OR FALSE

- _____ Spending time with other believers should motivate us to be better people.
- _____ Only our actions, not our words, can encourage others.
- _____ When someone is going through hard times, one of the best ways to encourage him is to spend time with him.

“Flatter me, and I may not believe you. Criticize me, and I may not like you. Ignore me, and I may not forgive you. Encourage me, and I will not forget you.”³

ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER

1. What are the two commands found in 1 Thessalonians 5:11? _____
and _____.
2. If we want to encourage someone, is it necessary to say nice things about him, even if they aren't true?

3. What is the main goal of meeting with other believers, according to Hebrews 10:24? _____

4. Does this type of encouragement mean we should say only positive things? Why? v.25 _____

5. What are the two commands found in Hebrews 10:25? _____

6. Meeting with other believers includes church attendance. It also includes fellowship during the week through phone calls, visits and small groups. How can these informal contacts help us? _____



How often do you generally meet with other believers? _____
Ask your pastor if there is a small group that you could become involved in.



7. There is a certain urgency to meet together since we see “the day approaching.” v. 25
What day is the author referring to? v. 37 _____

HOW TO ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

8. What is one way to encourage others? Proverbs 12:25 _____
9. Read Prov. 18:21. _____ and _____ are in the power of the tongue. Words are powerful, capable of lifting up our spirit or of killing it. Proverbs 16:24 adds that pleasant words are like honey and medicine to our bodies. See “Words of Encouragement” on the next page.
10. Our words should be _____ Ephesians 4:29

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

1. Use words that praise, encourage and are thankful such as: "Good Job!", "You can do it", "I believe in you", "You gave it your all; don't worry about the mistakes", "Thanks for your help."
2. Treat others with respect and dignity. Expect the best of others, not the worst. Trust them.
3. Avoid criticism, yelling and ridicule. Don't expect perfection. Avoid sarcasm and "jokes" at others expense. Limit the "buts" ("You did well, but...")
4. Listen with empathy when others speak. Give them your full attention, looking them in the eye, without thinking of how you will respond when they finish. Don't interrupt. Don't judge. Others will know if you have listened if you are able to repeat their concerns back to them.
5. Take their fears seriously, and help them to overcome those fears.
6. Teach them to limit their use of the phrase "I can't."
7. Take their dreams and wishes seriously.

THINK ABOUT IT

What should we do when we meet together with other believers? What parts of the services encourage you? Are there parts that discourage or frustrate you? What are they? Talk to your pastor, asking advice about how to deal with your frustration.



GROWING STRONGER

Read Genesis 1-7 (one chapter each day).

Memorize 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

11. Give examples of words which encourage and build others up: _____

Give examples of words that discourage others: _____

Measure your Words. Your words usually:



- Build up
 - Criticize and scold
 - Comfort
 - Promote unity
 - Complain & grumble
 - Gossip & backbite
 - Lifts others' spirits.
- ☞ See "Words of Encouragement" in the box at the left.

12. What is one way to encourage others? Romans 12:15

Our presence at someone's side during tough times is more important than what we say. When we sympathize with another person, sharing his pain and joys, he knows that someone cares for him.



13. Paul wrote about the rapture in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 so that Christians might encourage one another. This is an example of how the Bible can be used as a powerful tool of encouragement. It is literally the power of God. When we fail to listen to and study God's word, we cut ourselves off from the possibility of receiving that support.

List several passages that have encouraged you recently.

14. What words of encouragement do we find in the following passages?

1 Peter 5:7 _____

1 John 4:4 _____

15. According to Hebrews 4:14-16, is there anyone who really understands our problems? _____

So, what should we do? v.16 _____

The "throne of grace" refers to the merciful presence of God. Through prayer, we approach him at any time, knowing that he is waiting to hear us, even when we feel unworthy. The Bible is full of encouraging passages like this one. Take advantage of them to be encouraged and to encourage.



Are you discouraged; or do you know someone who needs encouragement? **See Appendix 2 in Volume 1 which talks about "Who Am I in Christ"**

Step 5

Serve one another



TRUE OR FALSE

- _____ Service is only for those who have the time for it.
- _____ Humility is a prerequisite to service.
- _____ Great leaders look for ways to serve others.

SERVING OR BEING SERVED?

1. Read Galatians 5:13. Although we are free in Christ, some use that freedom to give free reign to their passions. They abuse God's grace and forgiveness, using their freedom as an excuse to do pretty much what they want. Instead of misusing our freedom, what should we do? _____
2. The gospel doesn't call us to selfishness, but to service. Why? v. 14 _____
Servants ask: What can I do for others? **Selfish people ask:** What can others do for me?
 Love and service are inseparably linked. Love motivates us to serve, while service demonstrates our love.
3. Summarize what Matthew 20:26-28 teaches about service. _____

4. What can we do to attain the very best in life? What would you say to someone who is interested only in his own welfare? _____

The road to greatness passes through the valley of service.



LEARNING BY THE EXAMPLE OF OTHERS

5. What did Jesus do in John 13:3-5? _____

The self-centered only think about themselves.

During the American Revolution a man in civilian clothes rode past a group of soldiers repairing a small defensive barrier. Their leader was shouting instructions but making no attempt to help them. Asked why by the rider, he retorted with great dignity, "Sir, I am a corporal!"

The stranger apologized, dismounted, and proceeded to help the exhausted soldiers. The job done, he turned to the corporal and said, "Mr. Corporal, next time you have a job like this and not enough men to do it, go to your commander-in-chief, and I will come and help you again." It was none other than George Washington.⁴

6. In those days, washing visitors' feet was the work of the servants, below the dignity of someone as important as Jesus.
 What was Jesus trying to teach his disciples by washing their feet?
 John 13:14-16 _____

7. What attitude did Jesus display that we should imitate? Phil. 2:5-8

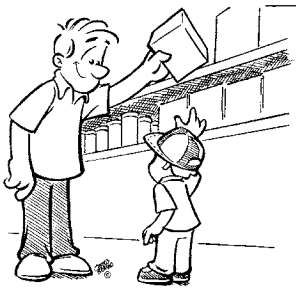
 If Jesus humbled himself in order to serve others, why should we do less?
8. What can we do to serve others, according to Philippians 2:3-4?
 v. 3 _____
 v. 4 _____

THINK ABOUT IT

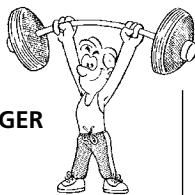
An ax is made for hard work. Even though it is worn down as it is used and re-sharpened, it is serving the purpose for which it was created.

In contrast, an ax left at home without use is a sad sight, as it quickly becomes covered by rust.

It is better to spend ourselves in serving others than to seek the selfish "rest" of only seeking our own well being. Next time you see an ax, or another tool, think about this.



*"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."*⁵



GROWING STRONGER

Read Psalms 25-31 this week (one chapter per day).

Memorize Galatians 5:13.

"You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love."



Give some examples of how you might look out for the interests of others. _____

9. For the apostle Paul, the greatest form of service was to carry the good news of salvation to others. That is why he said in Romans 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the gospel..." What do we learn from him in the following passages that will help us serve others?

2 Cor. 4:5 _____

2 Cor. 6:3 _____

10. What other trait of a servant do we see in 2 Corinthians 11:29? _____

IT'S NOT EASY, BUT IT'S WORTH IT

11. Service can be costly. Explain how. 2 Cor 6:4-8 _____

See 2 Corinthians 11:24-28 for more details about the sacrifices the apostle Paul made in order to serve others. See also 2 Timothy 2:10.

12. Are the sacrifices that service requires worth it? Why?

2 Corinthians 9:6 _____

Hebrews 6:10 _____

13. How is service described in 2 Cor. 8:4? _____

GETTING PRACTICAL

*"What work does Christ set his servants to do? The way that they serve him, he tells them, is by becoming the slaves of their fellow-servants and being willing to do literally anything, however costly, irksome, or undignified, in order to help them."*⁶

Above all, service is practical as we dedicate our time, resources and energy. Examples of service might include:

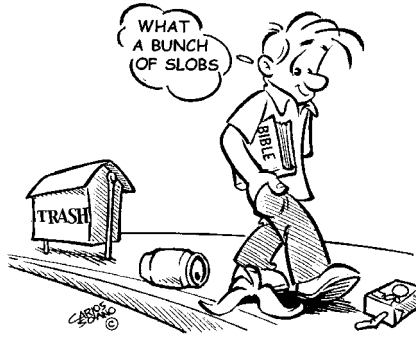
- Listening
- Encouraging
- Counseling
- Visiting
- Comforting
- Repairing a faucet, door or car.
- Cutting the grass
- Painting
- Cheering someone up with a smile.
- Washing dishes
- Teaching someone to read
- Discipling a new believer
- Helping with homework
- Washing, ironing, sewing
- Running errands
- Taking someone to the doctor
- Keeping him/her company
- Doing something on the computer
- Teaching someone how to use a computer
- Preparing meals
- Taking out the trash
- Sharing the gospel
- Watching the kids
- Teaching
- Cleaning the house
- Praying with and for the person
- Reading to someone
- Loaning a book
- Phoning to see how someone is doing



Ask: "How can I make myself useful today?"

Step 6

Bear with one another



TRUE OR FALSE

- _____ As Christians, we must put up with all sorts of abuse.
- _____ We can learn to tolerate others by forgiving them.
- _____ Before criticizing others, we must remember that we have our own faults.

LIVING IN THE REAL WORLD

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another."
Ephesians 4:2

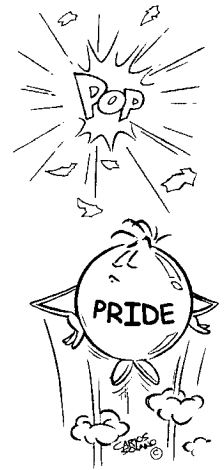
Does it bother you to live with imperfect and irritating people in your home or church? Ephesians 4:2 speaks of "bearing with one another in love." Some translations say "forbearing" or "showing tolerance." The idea is that we must learn to live with others' weaknesses. When we stop complaining about their faults, we can begin to love them.

1. Proverbs 19:11 helps us to understand the concept of "bearing with one another" when it says: A man's glory is to _____.
2. According to Ephesians 4:2, we should "bear with one another" with an attitude of: _____ and _____.
This will allow us to have _____ in the church. Ephesians 4:3
3. Why is humility necessary in order to put up with others' weaknesses? Matthew 7:3 _____
4. We all have weaknesses that others must put up with. What are some of your faults that might irritate others? _____

5. What future awaits your family if you can't learn to live with each other's weaknesses? _____

6. How would it affect you to know that your spouse can't live with your defects and always wants to change you? _____

7. How does it affect children to know that their parents are always disappointed in them because they are less than perfect? _____



As perfectionists, we look down on those who don't measure up to our expectations. When we demand too much of others, we burden them with a load that they will never be able to carry.

Their reaction might be of anger, frustration or discouragement. No matter how hard they try to meet our standards, both of us will always end up frustrated or angry with the other.

We won't have healthy relationships with others until we learn to accept them as they are.

The Perfectionist

*Are you a perfectionist or do you live with one?
Meditate on the statement at the right about the effects of perfectionism on our personal relationships.*





Are we here to serve or to criticize ?

Someone once said to John Wesley, "I never forgive and I never forget."

To which Wesley replied, "Then, Sir, I hope you never sin."



GROWING STRONGER

Read Genesis 8-14 (one chapter per day).

Memorize Ephesians 4:2.

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another."

8. Do you think that an effective way to motivate others is to shame them when they fail? _____ Why? _____

Shame often produces results, but not the kind we want. It motivates us to do the right things for the wrong reasons and only works as long as someone is looking over our shoulder.

9. Must we accept others' bad behavior without calling them to account? Galatians 6:1 _____

10. Does tolerance mean others will escape the consequences of their actions? Rom. 12:17-19 _____

11. Read Romans 15:1-2 and answer the following questions:

_____ True or False? Putting up with others is just a sign of weakness, indicating that we don't know how to defend ourselves. v. 1

The purpose of bearing with others is _____ . v. 2

The main point of this passage is that we should:

- Support others instead of just doing what is best for ourselves.
- Put up with others even though we don't want to.



It's true that others' faults bother us, but are we here to serve them or criticize them? _____

Think about how this concept could change your life.

12. Read Col. 3:13. To bear with one another, we must _____. Can we put up with others' weakness without forgiving them? _____ Why? _____

Who best models forgiveness for us? _____. Christ forgave others to the point of pardoning his enemies while he still hung on the cross.

13. Colossians 3:8 exhorts us to lay aside our anger. What happens when we refuse to let go of a grudge? *Do we become better or bitter?*

14. What other qualities will help us make allowances for other's annoying faults? Col. 3:12 _____

15. Who wins when church members take up sides against each another? Nobody The group which comes out on top Satan

Who wins in a church whose members learn to bear with one another? _____

16. Based on what you have learned in this lesson, what would you say to those who are looking for "the perfect church"? _____

Step 7

Forgive one another



TRUE OR FALSE

- _____ Scripture tells us to forgive others no matter what they have done.
- _____ Holding a grudge will only entrap us in a web of bitterness.
- _____ A friend learns to overlook the offensive behavior of his friends.

1. According to Colossians 3:13, what must we do when we have a complaint against someone?

It's important to note that forgiveness is linked with "bearing with one another," given that both are necessary to live in harmony with others. We need to look to Christ as our model of forgiveness.

2. What is one of the characteristics of a friend? _____ Proverbs 17:9

To "cover an offense" means to forgive or overlook the offense. The phrase "repeats the matter" may either refer to gossiping about the sins of others, or dwelling on the matter, constantly reminding them of their shortcomings.

From the passage about the woman taken in adultery (John 8:3-11), we learn that forgiveness does not mean to minimize the importance of sin. After forgiving the woman Jesus told her to go and sin no more.



3. What alternatives to forgiveness are mentioned in Ephesians 4:31? _____

Your decision of whether or not to forgive will determine the course of your life. You have only two alternatives — forgiveness or bitterness. Seeking revenge will only lead you to a dead end of resentment. Choose to let go of your anger.



Meditate on the following thoughts:

"To carry a grudge is like being stung to death by one bee." ⁷

"Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future." ⁸

Which life style do you choose? Bitterness — holding that grudge Peace — forgiving



6. Ephesians 4:32 links forgiveness with a tender and compassionate heart. Why do they go together?

Forgiveness is the result of a tender and compassionate heart.

7. We should _____ our sins to one another and _____ for one another. James 5:16.

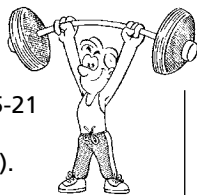
Admitting our sins to others isn't easy. Some of the things that might possibly keep us from doing it are fear of being scolded, pride, fear that others will find out what we have done, etc. Can you think of others? _____

8. A critical spirit makes it hard to forgive others. What does the Bible say about criticism?

Romans 2:1 _____

Matthew 7:1-5 _____

GROWING STRONGER



Read Genesis 15-21 this week (one chapter per day).

Memorize Ephesians 4:32.

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

STORIES OF FORGIVENESS

✓ After the Civil War, Robert E. Lee visited a Kentucky lady who took him to the remains of a grand old tree in front of her house. There she bitterly cried that its limbs and trunk had been destroyed by Federal artillery fire. She looked to Lee for a word condemning the North or at least sympathizing with her loss.

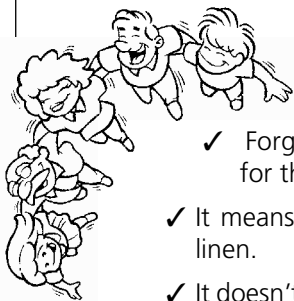
After a brief silence, Lee said, “Cut it down, my dear Madam, and forget it.” It is better to forgive the injustices of the past than to allow them to remain, let bitterness take root and poison the rest of our life.⁹

✓ There’s a Spanish story of a father and son who had become estranged. The son ran away, and the father set off to find him. He searched for months to no avail. Finally, in a last desperate effort to find him, the father put an ad in a Madrid newspaper.

The ad read: “Dear Paco, meet me in front of this newspaper office at noon on Saturday. All is forgiven. I love you. Your Father.”

On Saturday 800 Pacos showed up, looking for forgiveness and love from their fathers.¹⁰

For more information on forgiveness, see steps 7 and 8 in Volume 2 of New Life in Christ. Download Volume 2 at www.NewLifeDiscipleship.com.



Summing up, what is the main problem with judging others? _____

9. Who of us has the right to judge others? Matthew 7:5 _____

The Bible commands us to forgive others, regardless of what they have done. We even forgive our enemies. This doesn’t mean that the offender won’t be held accountable for what he has done. Both parties have responsibilities:

- The **offender** is responsible to repent and ask forgiveness.
- The **offended** is responsible to forgive, even though he doesn’t feel that the other deserves it. Once he forgives, he has done what is required of him and is then free to leave behind the bitterness that used to control his life.

10. What kind of behavior can we expect from God’s people?

Proverbs 24:17 _____

Proverbs 24:29 _____

Exodus 23:4-5 _____



Stop and try to think of a modern day example of Exodus 23:4-5 that you could act on today.

11. How far should our forgiveness extend? According to Luke 6:35-36, a forgiving person _____, and does them _____.

He does all this without _____.(v. 35)

He follows the example of his God, who is _____. (v. 36)

Mercy has the idea of *not giving the person the punishment he deserves*. For example, he does good, even to the evil and ungrateful. (v.35).

Thoughts on Forgiveness

- ✓ Forgiveness is not the same as forgetting an offense. It takes time for the memories to be erased once I have forgiven.
- ✓ It means I stop recriminating the other, always bringing out the dirty linen.
- ✓ It doesn’t demand vengeance or punishment, because I understand that the offender will have to give account to God for what he has done.
- ✓ Forgiveness is mainly a decision to let go of my anger. Even though I don’t want to forgive, it is the only manner to free myself from bitterness.
- ✓ My decision to forgive isn’t dependent on the attitude or actions of the one who has hurt me.
- ✓ When the bad memories come to mind I can say: “I have already forgiven. I refuse to dwell on what is past.”

Step 8

Accept one another



TRUE OR FALSE

- _____ Unity in the church requires that we accept irritating people.
 _____ If we accept the ungodly, other believers will criticize us.
 _____ Accepting sinners means we are giving approval to their evil deeds.

God's family is huge and includes all sorts of people. Some are mature, others are not. Some are easy to get along with, while others are always causing problems. The Bible tells us to accept one another. No matter who they are, God seeks unity among the members of his family.

LIVING WITH IRRITATING PEOPLE

1. What does God want for his children? Romans 15:5-6 asks that God might grant believers _____ as they follow God, who gives perseverance and encouragement.

2. What is required to live together in harmony? Romans 15:7 _____
 To receive others (KJV) is to accept them, even with their defects.

3. Can we choose those who will be our brothers and sisters in Christ? Yes No
 Are there believers who rub us the wrong way? Yes No
 Are there believers in our church with serious problems and defects? Yes No



This is exactly why Romans 15:1 exhorts us to _____

4. Romans 15:8-9 speaks of two groups of people, the Jews (the circumcision) and the _____ (v.9). Previously, the Jews had looked down upon the Gentiles, not wanting to associate with them, or even shake their hands; but when they received Christ, things changed. God made them all into one family.

5. Read Luke 19:1-10 and answer the following questions about Zacchaeus:
 What kind of a reputation de Zacchaeus have? v.2, 7 _____

6. Even though Zacchaeus was a disreputable person, Jesus didn't snub him. How did Jesus' acceptance affect Zacchaeus, even though he had been rejected by the majority? v.6 _____
 v.8 _____

7. How did Jesus answer those who criticized him for associating with a sinner like Zacchaeus? v.10 _____



The church is a family, yet it is also a refuge and a hospital for problematic people. What would be the point of a hospital that only accepted patients who were well? _____

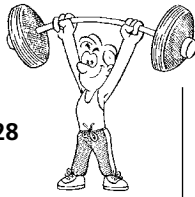


Luke 15:7 speaks of the joy in heaven when one sinner repents. God seeks out and welcomes the wayward. Should we do less? Who should be welcome in our church?

- Nice people Irritating people Strong Christians The weak and immature
 The upper class The lower class Addicts Immoral people
 Those who have different opinions than we do Foreigners and people of different race or culture

GROWING STRONGER

Read Genesis 22-28 this week, (one chapter per day).



Memorize Romans 15:1-2.

"We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up."

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Read Luke 7:36-50 and discuss the different attitudes of Jesus and the Pharisee toward the sinful woman.

WORTHY OF HONOR

11. What other type of people do we need to receive? Philippians 2:25, 29 _____
How should we treat God's servants? v.29 _____



What could you do to honor the leaders of your church? _____

Grace or Legalism?

Many believers are confused and discouraged, covered with feelings of guilt, because they feel like they are under constant surveillance by other Christians. They feel **no love, grace or acceptance**, but rather a cold judgemental atmosphere dominated by spiritual pride and attitudes of superiority.

While it is true that the Bible sets high standards, we often add our own norms and traditions to God's. It is easier to demand that others live by our list of "dos and don'ts" than to look inside and see their hearts. Perhaps our motives are sincere when we judge others, but this is called **legalism**. It doesn't mean we have no right to point out errors, letting people do whatever they want. The Bible also tells us to exhort one another, but with grace and tenderness, basing our exhortation on **biblical commands, not personal opinions**.



LEGALISM

8. If we welcome all kinds of people, does it mean that the church cannot establish standards of conduct? _____

Why? _____

Receiving the weak doesn't mean we need to let them dominate or cause divisions; rather, we should seek to build them up (Rom. 15:1-2).



What could you do to make the following people feel more comfortable in your church? Think about specific people.

✓ The timid or reserved: _____

✓ Visitors: _____

✓ Problematic people: _____

For example, invite them out for coffee. Pray for them.

9. What problem does James 2:1-4 point out? _____

What then can we learn from this passage? _____

What irony do verses 5-7 mention? _____

Not only that, but often quiet or humble folks who don't impress us at first have more to offer than the "important people" we tend to favor.

10. Ephesians 4:3-4 commands us to be _____. Can we be united if we don't accept other believers as they are? Yes No



Step 9 Exhort one another

TRUE OR FALSE

- _____ To avoid problems, it's better not to offer counsel to anyone.
- _____ If I feel God leading me to exhort someone, I should do it without delay.
- _____ Basing my counsel on the Bible insures that it will be sound.

WE CAN'T TURN A BLIND EYE

1. Hebrews 3:13 commands us to _____
"Encourage" in the NIV is rendered "exhort" in most translations, or as *The Message* says, "Keep each other on your toes."
2. When is the right time for exhortation? v. 13 _____
3. If we turn a blind eye and fail to take a stand against sin, we run the risk of _____
by sin's deceitfulness. v.13 What are the characteristics of a hardened heart? _____

The more time that passes before someone is confronted with his sin, the more calloused he becomes. Some people are sensitive and repentant, while others seem to shrug off the warnings. It takes time to harden a heart, which is why it is so easy for some to say: "What's the rush? I'll deal with it tomorrow."

Why do we often wait until "tomorrow" before talking with others about a problem? _____



Do you feel that God is leading you to exhort someone, yet haven't taken action yet?

What is holding you back from speaking with the person?

Is there any reason you couldn't act today (or this week)?

Formulate a plan of how you hope to confront and encourage the person.

4. True or False:
 - _____ Exhortation means to pressure someone to change.
 - _____ The best way to exhort is to shame someone until he changes.
 - _____ Exhortation means encouraging someone to change his attitude.

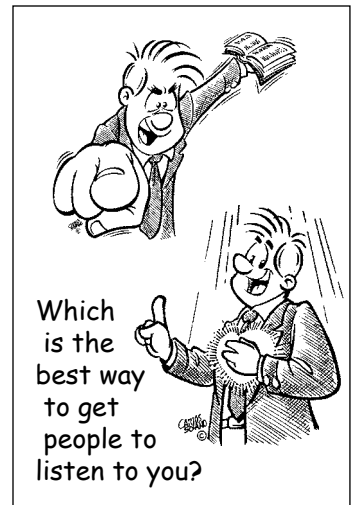
HOW TO EXHORT OTHERS

5. What should be our attitude when we urge others to turn from sin?
1 Timothy 5:1-2 _____

Is scolding and browbeating an acceptable way to exhort? _____

When we exhort someone, we should treat him with respect, as if he were family. When it is time to talk with someone ask: "Is this how I would like someone to treat my mom or dad or sister?"

6. According to 2 Timothy 3:16, a powerful tool for reproof is _____. The Bible is useful for _____, _____, _____, and _____



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

We all need counsel and sometimes an exhortation. We must listen to others to learn from them.

An African proverb says:

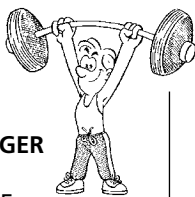
"It takes a village to raise a child."

What is the main point of this proverb?

What implications does it have for the Church today?

Do I really need my brothers and sisters in Christ in order to become the person God wants me to be?

"He that gives good advice, builds with one hand; he that gives good counsel and example, builds with both; but he that gives good admonition and bad example, builds with one hand and pulls down with the other." ¹¹



GROWING STRONGER

Read Genesis 29-35 this week (one chapter per day).

Memorize Hebrews 3:13.

"But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."

Someone is always telling us what to do, but how can we know if that advice is worth taking? When we use the Bible to counsel others, we can be sure that we are sharing God's wisdom, and not just personal opinions.

7. That is why 2 Timothy 4:2 exhorts us to _____.

When is the appropriate time to use the Word for exhortation? _____

8. Even though we use the Bible, the last part of the verse tells us to correct and exhort with _____.

The power to change a life does not come from our words, but from God's Word. We need to be patient, understanding that the Holy Spirit will use the Scriptures in the lives of others.

9. The Bible is full of exhortations. For example, what are we urged to do in the following passages from the book of Philippians?

1:27 _____

2:3-4 _____

3:1 _____

10. A challenge is another way to exhort, by motivating others towards certain attitudes or actions. For example, what are we challenged to do in Matthew 28:19-20?



What do you expect from others?

Sometimes we expect too little. Think about the following:



"Treat a man as he is, he will remain so. Treat a man the way he can be and ought to be, and he will become as he can be and should be" ¹²

The other side of the coin is to **expect too much** of others. We must avoid being too demanding when challenging others.

Why? _____

Review TRUE OR FALSE

_____ Exhortation is supposed to make others feel guilty about their sin.

_____ Exhortation should instruct someone how to do what is right.

_____ A good chewing out is the way to get others to change.

_____ It is best to remain silent so as not to offend anyone.

_____ Our counsel to others should be based on the Scriptures, not on personal opinions.

_____ We should exhort with gentleness and respect.

Step 10

Admonish one another



TRUE OR FALSE

- It's best to keep silent about sin so as not to discourage others.
- When we admonish others, it should be with love and respect.
- A good scolding will keep others on their toes and help them become stronger Christians.

HONESTY WILL BUILD UP A BROTHER

"...admonishing and teaching everyone...so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.." Colossians 1:28

1. Read Proverbs 24:24-26 and answer the following questions:

What mistake should we avoid? v. 24 _____

What is the right thing to do? v. 25-26 _____

What happens when we confront the wicked honestly? v. 25-26 _____

2. We must put off _____ and speak _____. Ephesians 4:25

Being honest with others about their faults is the best way to deal with problems; but this requires courage since not everyone is willing to hear the truth. Speaking frankly is risky, but it is for their good.

3. In the end, the one who _____ will come out ahead of someone who uses _____
Proverbs 28:23

Why do we often prefer flattery over rebuke? _____

4. How should we respond when others confront us with our sin? Proverbs 28:13 _____
and _____. Covering up problems will only guarantee failure. On the other hand, facing up to them with honesty and repentance brings forgiveness and allows us to overcome weaknesses.

5. The purpose of admonition is _____. Col. 1:28
This noble goal should motivate us to move forward, trusting God to change lives. v. 29



HOW TO ADMONISH OTHERS

6. To instruct others we must be full of _____ and _____. Rom. 15:14

What would instruction without **goodness** be like? _____

What would instruction without **knowledge** be like? _____

Without knowledge we often do more harm than good. We need biblical knowledge and wisdom as well as knowledge of the situation in order to effectively admonish someone.

7. James 1:19 tells us to be quick to _____ and slow to _____ and _____.

It is common to half listen to someone, and then interrupt him with our advice or admonition, without having taken the time to understand his situation. We shouldn't be surprised when that person resists our counsel because he feels we didn't really hear him out or that we are misinformed.

8. In 1 Corinthians 4:14, Paul didn't write the Corinthians to _____ but rather _____
as his _____. Admonition requires firmness but it is not harsh. Shaming someone publicly will backfire, producing resistance and rebellion instead of repentance.



Shaming someone publicly will backfire, producing resistance and rebellion instead of repentance.

FOR FUTURE STUDY

Name a serious sin that deserves admonition. Titus 3:10

How serious is the sin of trouble making? v.10-11

What are some of the tactics used by troublemakers?

THINK ABOUT IT

How can we admonish others (Romans 15:14) without being judgmental (Romans 14:13)?

Those who admonish need goodness and knowledge (Romans 15:14), but above all they need to look at themselves first to see if they qualify to correct others (Luke 6:41-42).

GROWING STRONGER

Read Genesis 36-42 (one chapter a day).

Memorize Galatians 6:1.

"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted."



Read Galatians 6:1-2 and answer the following questions.

- 9. What kind of person is qualified to restore others? _____
- 10. In what spirit should we seek to restore the fallen? _____
How would the meaning of v. 1 change if we substituted "punish" or "scold" for "restore"? _____
- 11. What other warning do we find at the end of v. 1 and in v. 3? _____

Even the most godly among us is subject to temptation, so there is no place for pride. It is only God's grace that keeps us from falling.

- 12. Another part of restoration is _____. v. 2
The "burdens" we carry for others are not the normal every day problems which each of us is responsible to carry for ourselves. "Burdens" here refers to the crushing trials that one is unable to bear alone. (v. 5)

- 13. Matthew 18:15-17 gives us a model of how to deal with someone who sins against us. What are the **three steps** we must follow?

v.15 _____

v.16 _____

v.17 _____



Which of these steps is most difficult for you? _____
How often do you use these steps to deal with those who offend us?
 Always Most of the time Infrequently Never

- 14. Why is it important to first speak alone with the offender? _____

It is common and easier to skip the first step and jump directly into gossip.

- 15. Why do we need the witnesses of step 2? _____

- 16. What are the consequences of ignoring the counsel of the church?

To treat others as pagans or tax collectors doesn't mean to be cruel or to reject them, but simply to treat them as if they were unbelievers.

REVIEW TRUE OR FALSE

- _____ Chewing someone out will keep him on the straight and narrow.
- _____ We should never rebuke people; rather, we must only accept them.
- _____ Admonition must be based on goodness.
- _____ Shaming someone will cause him to forsake his sin.
- _____ Many jump the gun, exhorting without having all the facts.
- _____ If we speak gently with someone, he will never understand the seriousness of his sin.
- _____ The first step in warning others is to go directly before the church.
- _____ It is important to examine our own lives before admonishing others.

Step 11

Greet one another Offer hospitality to one another



TRUE OR FALSE

- _____ Church is a place where we can relate to and fellowship with other believers, not just receive teaching.
- _____ Our words can really encourage others.
- _____ Many believers are hungry for a relationship with others.

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

1. There is a good habit described in Romans 16:16. What is it? _____

The "holy kiss" was a way that believers greeted each other in biblical times. Although greetings vary from culture to culture, a "holy kiss" is to be a warm greeting — personal and genuine, yet appropriate (holy).

2. At first glance Colossians 4:7-18 doesn't appear to be particularly interesting; yet when reexamined, it sheds light on how we relate to Christians. Answer the following questions based on this passage.

What does this passage consist of? _____

3. Why is this passage included in the Bible? What can we learn from it? _____

4. Thinking about the passage, decide if the following statements are true or false.

- _____ Paul truly loved the believers in Colosse.
- _____ Greetings like these are just a courtesy, yet are actually superficial.
- _____ It was hard for Paul to remember peoples' names.
- _____ Paul had a close pastoral relationship with the Christians in Colosse.
- _____ Paul concerned himself with Bible teaching without becoming personally involved in peoples' lives.
- _____ Paul preferred to be alone and really had very little patience for others.
- _____ Paul used these greetings to stimulate and encourage the brethren.



5. Write down some of the encouraging statements that Paul used in his greetings.

v. 7 _____

v. 9 _____

v.11 _____

v. 12 _____

v. 14 _____



What do others say about you? Are you approachable and friendly or stiff and cold?

Rate yourself on a scale of 1-5.

Cold 1 2 3 4 5 Friendly



Some people abuse our hospitality. Think about the following proverb from the Swahili of Africa .

“Treat your guest as a guest for two days; on the third day, give him a hoe.”

OFFERING HOSPITALITY

6. According to 1 Peter 4:9, we need to be _____ yet without _____.

Although we treat others well, our facial expressions reveal whether our hospitality is genuine or not.

7. What is genuine hospitality? To answer this question, think about the following statements and decide if they are true or false.

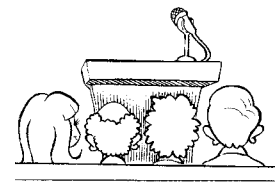
- _____ Hospitality requires the ability to make a good cup of coffee.
- _____ Hospitality is the ability to make others feel at home.
- _____ It is important to have a nice house so that we might entertain guests.
- _____ Hospitality comes from the heart. It is a way of expressing love for others.
- _____ Hospitable people welcome guests without keeping track of whether or not they return the favor.
- _____ Hospitality requires a generous spirit, yet not necessarily spending a lot of money.
- _____ Like it or not, we are required to be hospitable.
- _____ Being hospitable doesn't necessarily mean inviting others to our house.

8. Many people live lonely lives, perhaps because they don't have family or friends. Even those with "friends" often feel the need for more personal contact with others. This is exactly why hospitality is so important, because it helps them to feel that someone is interested in their lives. They come to church seeking God but also relationships with others.

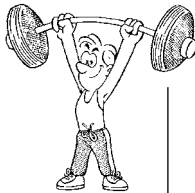


How are visitors received in your church?

Write down some ways that you could make visitors feel genuinely welcome and comfortable in your church.



GROWING STRONGER



Read Genesis 43-50 (one chapter per day).

Memorize 1 Peter 4:9.

“Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.”

Quotes

1. 6000 Sermon Illustrations, ed. Elon Foster (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House), 1992 p. 309
2. Albert Schweitzer
3. William Arthur Ward
4. *Today in the Word, March 6 1991*
5. Albert Schweitzer
6. James Packer in Your Father Loves You, Harold Shaw Publishers, 1986
7. William Walton
8. Paul Boese
9. Lee: The Last Years, by Charles Bracelen Flood
10. *Bits & Pieces*, October 15, 1992, p. 13
11. Francis Bacon
12. Goethe
13. Arnold H. Glasow

Appendix 1

Cut on the lines. Carry these cards with you and memorize the verses

Luke 6:31 Step 1

"Do to others as you would have them do to you."

1 Thes. 5:11 Step 4

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

Ephesians 4:32 Step 7

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Galatians 6:1 Step 10

"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted."

1 John 3:16 Step 2

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers."

Galatians 5:13 Step 5

"You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather serve one another in love."

Romans 15:1-2 Step 8

"We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up."

1 Peter 4:9 Step 11

"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling."

John 13:35 Step 3

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Ephesians 4:2 Step 6

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another."

Hebrews 3:13 Step 9

"But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."

Certificate

This certificate is presented to

_____ who has satisfactorily completed all the lessons of the course

New Life in Christ Volume 3 **Living Together With Each Other**

Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31



Pastor or Teacher

Date