

/// 11-1 ///

**OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO ONE ANOTHER**

The New Testament writers gave many instructions to believers concerning how they were to minister to each other. One term in particular was used to convey this special relationship: "one another." Dr. Gene Getz, in his books *Sharpening the Focus of the Church* and *Building Up One Another*, (see NLC course #17 "Church Dynamics") has pointed out that, if all the uses of this special term are studied and categorized, they can be grouped into twelve actions that believers are to perform for one another. These twelve actions are seen by Getz as the outworking of the greatest "one another" exhortation—loving one another. In order for you to get an overview of these "one anothers", the following exercise has been provided:

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**Practical opportunity 2**

*At home research the different categories of "one anothers".* Using the list below, in your notebook set up a half page or perhaps a whole page for each of the concepts. Look up the references provided, and write a brief summary of your understanding of the concept. Then, for each one write down one example of how you might apply this exhortation in your own church setting.

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|---|---|
| 1. Members of one another               | Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:14-26   |
| 2. Be devoted to one another            | Romans 12:10; Philippians 2:3-4   |
| 3. Honor one another                    | Romans 12:10; John 13:12-15   |
| 4. Be of the same mind with one another | Romans 15:5; Acts 4:32  |
| 5. Accept one another                   | Romans 15:7; James 2:1  |
| 6. Admonish one another                 | Romans 15:14; 1 Corinthians 4:14  |
| 7. Greet one another                    | Romans 16:3-16; 1 Peter 5:14  |
| 8. Serve one another                    | Galatians 5:13-15; Matthew 20:25-28   |
| 9. Bear one another's burdens           | Galatians 6:2 ( <i>Note the context here is in relation to restoring a brother who has fallen into sin.</i> ) |
| 10. Show forbearance to one another     | Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13  |
| 11. Be subject to one another           | Ephesians 5:21; Philippians 2:3-4   |
| 12. Encourage one another               | 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 10:24-25  |

This survey should give you at least an introduction to the scope of the responsibilities that we as Christians have toward each other. Every one of us has fallen short in one area or another, maybe even in most of them! The emphasis is often on what I **get** from others, not what I am **giving**. We have a plague, a disease among believers, of self-centeredness. The world says, "What's in it for me?" And we see this attitude exhibited in believers who go from church to church trying to find the one that will best meet "their" needs, with no thought of being committed to a family in which there is a constant giving as well as receiving.

We can spend a lot of time on the topic of godliness and developing our Christian character. Some of the main character traits which should be evident and developing in our lives are: love, humility, contentment, thankfulness, joy, holiness, self-control, faithfulness, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, meekness. Of these traits nine of them are listed as the fruit of the Spirit. Obviously the test of how we are maturing spiritually is measured in practical terms by how we are relating to our fellow believers. Let's close by thinking about how our personal holiness affects our ability to have proper fellowship in the body of Christ.

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**Practical Opportunity 3**

*At home reflect on how our Christian development affects our responsibility to one another.* Turn in your notes again to the "one another" actions. For each one list which one of the 13 character trait(s) from the above list would improve your ability to perform better in that area. As you examine this evaluate how your further development in those areas would bring deeper fellowship and unity.

**Denominational Implementation**

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**Practical Opportunity**

Over the next year focus with your church leaders on **one** of the 8 *Relationship Building Projects* each month until all are covered. At the beginning of each month you should take one of the *Relationship Building Projects* and repeat orally or in printed form that section of this lecture with all leaders in your church. Do this in a group format. Write out some discussion questions and spend a whole evening discussing that subject. Come to a conclusion and follow up with a practical activity in the church during the next 2 weeks. During the final week of the month do a short analysis with your leaders. (Spent about 30 minutes). Next month repeat with another *Relationship Building Project* until all are covered.

Blessings to you, our dear friends!

We are happy to present the video, audio and paper materials that have been prepared by New Life for Churches. You have the privilege upon completion of your practical assignment to use this lecture with others.