



HUMILITY GROWS IN CIRCLES, NOT ROWS

CIRCLES, NOT ROWS: PART 1

August 7, 2021

“The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort is a plan that has been presented before me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members, but for unbelievers also.”

—Ellen G. White, *Australasian Record*, 87–88

“The blessing of the Lord will come to the church-members who thus participate in the work, gathering in small groups daily to pray for its success. Thus the believers will obtain grace for themselves, and the work of the Lord will be advanced.”

—Ellen G. White, *The Review and Herald*, n.d., 3827

OUR VISION

1. **Every member** connects with Jesus and one another in a Connect Group (small group) and or a Sabbath School functioning as a Connect Group.
2. **All ministry** for one another and those outside the church walls flows out of these Connect Groups.

The strength of our church will largely come from what happens in these circles.

"ONE ANOTHER"

Ἀλλήλων → Translated "one another"

- It appears 100 times in the New Testament in 94 different verses.
- 59 of those occurrences are part of specific commands teaching us how or how not to relate to one another.
- These commands break down into four groups
- 33% Focus on Unity in the Body of Christ (the church)
- 33% Focus on Christian Love
- 15% Focus on Humility
- 13 "one another" texts about random other commands, including kissing one another.

BIBLICAL COMMANDS

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments." —John 14:15 (ESV)

"If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me." —John 14:23-24 (ESV)

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come." —John 16:13 (ESV)

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There are 8 "One Another" texts:

1. Don't challenge or envy one another. (Gal. 5:26)
2. Wash one another's feet. (Jn. 13:14)
3. Give preference to one another in honor. (Ro. 12:10)
4. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. (Ro. 12:16)

5. Serve one another. (Ga. 5:13)
6. Be subject to one another. (Eph. 5:21)
7. Regard one another as more important than yourselves. (Php. 2:3)
8. Clothe yourselves in humility towards one another. (1 Pe. 5:5)

WHY WE NEED HUMILITY

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.” –1 Pe 5:6 (NIV)

“God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.” –Mt. 5:5 (NLT)

Because of Jesus:

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” –Php 2:5-8 (ESV)

HUMILITY GROWS IN CIRCLES, NOT ROWS!

Join a Connect Group. Start a Connect Group.

Facilitate a Connect Group.

Learn more at spencervillechurch.org/connectgroups.

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