

37 Ways to Love One Another

by Paul Tautges

A local church is not built by one man, or even a few men, but by every believer being actively involved in ministry through evangelizing the lost people in their lives and serving their fellow Christians. A quick glance at the practice of the New Testament church reveals that they thought very little about programs and very much about relationships.

Consider the disciple-making that would naturally take place in the life of a local church if every believer would practice the loving, one-another ministry that the early churches first read about in the instructions they received from the apostles:

1. **Be devoted to one another.** *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor* (Romans 12:10).
2. **Give preference to one another.** *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor* (Romans 12:10).
3. **Be of the same mind toward one another.** *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 12:16).
4. **Accept one another by withholding judgment.** *Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions* (Romans 14:1).
5. **Accept one another by showing deference.** *Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him. Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind. Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God* (Romans 14:1-5, 7).
6. **Esteem [highly regard] one another in love.** *One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind* (Romans 14:5). *Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves* (Philippians 2:3).
7. **Build up one another.** *So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another* (Romans 14:19). *Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing* (1 Thessalonians 5:11).
8. **Counsel one another.** *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 15:14).

9. **Serve one another by showing deference in matters of liberty.** *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 5:13).
10. **Bear one another's sin burdens.** *Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ* (Galatians 6:2).
11. **Be gentle with one another.** *With all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love* (Ephesians 4:2).
12. **Be kind to one another so as to preserve unity.** *Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.* (Ephesians 4:32).
13. **Speak truth to one another.** *Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another* (Ephesians 4:25). *Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices* (Colossians 3:9).
14. **Submit to one another.** *Be subject to one another in the fear of Christ* (Ephesians 5:21).
15. **Show compassion to one another.** *So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience* (Colossians 3:12).
16. **Bear with the inherent sinfulness of one another.** *Bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you* (Colossians 3:13).
17. **Forgive one another.** *Bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you* (Colossians 3:13).
18. **Use Spirit-filled, Word-saturated music to teach and admonish one another.** *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* (Colossians 3:16). *Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord* (Ephesians 5:19).
19. **Comfort one another with the hope of Christ's return.** *Therefore comfort one another with these words* (1 Thessalonians 4:18).
20. **Encourage one another.** *Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing* (1 Thessalonians 5:11).
21. **Live in peace with one another.** *And that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another* (1 Thessalonians 5:13).
22. **Seek good for one another.** *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* (1 Thessalonians 5:15).

23. **Encourage one another to forsake unbelief and hardness of heart.** *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 3:13).*
24. **Stimulate one another to spiritual growth.** *And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24).*
25. **Encourage one another by faithful participation in your local church.** *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 (Hebrews 10:25).*
26. **Confess sins to one another.** *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 (James 5:16).*
27. **Pray for one another's spiritual and physical healing** *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 (James 5:16).*
28. **Be long-suffering and patient toward one another.** *Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8). With all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love (Ephesians 4:2).*
29. **Be hospitable to one another without complaint.** *Be hospitable to one another without complaint (1 Peter 4:9).*
30. **Serve one another.** *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 4:10). 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 5:13).*
31. **Act in humility toward one another.** *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 Peter 5:5).*
32. **Show holy affection to one another.** *Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace be to you all who are in Christ (1 Peter 5:14).*
33. **Participate in the holy walk with one another.** *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 1:7).*
34. **Refuse to become resentful toward one another.** *For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous (1 John 3:11-12).*
35. **Give sacrificially to meet one another's needs.** *We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him (1 John 3:16-17)?*

36. **Fight fear together by growing in love.** *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love (1 John 4:18).*
37. **Walk in truth together.** *Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth (1 John 3:18). 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 (2 John 1:5).*

The Christian life is all about relationships. It's God's design for our personal growth, which then translates into church growth - the real kind. Loving one another is a powerful evangelistic tool, as Jesus says: "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).