

# “One Another” Bible Study

Key Scripture: *“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 ).

**One Another Bible Study** is a phrase study concerning relationships in the body of Christ. This study may be done individually, or in a small group. It is intended to strengthen us in one of the areas most frequently addressed by Paul, Jesus, and other New Testament writers and teachers, i.e. increasing in our love for one another. It was one of the main characteristics of believers Jesus prayed for in His famous John 15-17 priestly prayer. In this prayer we learn He desires that we love one another as He has loved us. As we live and interact with others, we all come to realize that this command is both a challenge and an incredible witness. Satan works hard to defeat us in this area, because he knows it affects our witness to the very love that Jesus gave to the world. So, may the Lord bless you as you study and sharpen your desire to love as He loves.

## Outline:

- I. The Need to Grow in Jesus' Love.
- II. The Need to Grow Through Admonition, Encouragement, and Spiritual Sharing.
- III. The need to Confront People in Love.
- IV. Building Blocks for Stressed Relationships in the Body.
- V. Improving Relationships Through Covenant Loving-Kindnesses.
- VI. Building Relationships By the Proper Workings/Use of the Gifts.
- VII. The Missionary Message in Christian Relationships.

## I. The Need to Grow in Jesus' Love.

**\*Read the Scriptures and answer the questions.**

1Thes 4: 9 Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for *anyone* to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to **love one another**; 10 for indeed you do practice it **toward all the brethren** who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, **to excel still more**,

NAU 2 Thessalonians 1:3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is *only* fitting, because **your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater**;

**1. Between the writing of 1 Thess. 4:9-10 and 2 Thess 1:3, what two elements of growth had taken place in the Thessalonian believers?**

**2. From the Scriptures below, what relationship causes us to be able to increase in love for one another?**

1Thess 3: 12 and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for **one another**, and for all people, just as we also *do* for you; 13 so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

**3. According to this Scripture, what reason is given for love to grow?**

**4. According to the Scriptures below, what action is needed to love some people?**

NAU 1 Peter 1:22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love **one another** from the heart,<sup>23</sup> for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring word of God.

NAU 1 John 3:23 This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love **one another**, just as He commanded us.

NAU 1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love **one another**, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

NAU 1 John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love **one another**.

**6. How is His love perfected?**

NAU 1 John 4:12 No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

**7. Circle the characteristics of love in the following passage.**

NIV 1 Corinthians 13:1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. 12 Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

**8. How is Jesus' love perfected and grown in and through our daily lives and interactions with others according to the Scriptures above (v.11)?**

**9. What are some examples of childish thinking that keeps us from maturing?**

## II. The Need to Grow Through Admonishment, Encouragement, and Spiritual Sharing

Read the Scriptures and answer the questions.

### Scriptures:

Eph 5: 19 speaking to **one another** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; 20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; 21 **and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.**

1. **What are the components of fellowship in the Scriptures above?**

NAU 1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage **one another** and build up **one another**, just as you also are doing. 12 But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, 13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. 14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 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.

2. **What are the commands for good relationships between laity and clergy as found in the preceding text?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.11) toward each other
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 11) toward each other
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.12) toward leaders
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.13) toward leaders
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.13) toward each other
6. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.14) toward laity?
7. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.14) toward laity?
8. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.14) toward laity?
9. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.14) toward each other
10. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.15) toward each other
11. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.15) toward each other

### Study Notes:

The word used in v. 11 for “encourage,” is the word *parakaleo*. It means to call to aid, send for, to summon one's friends during a trial, to exhort or encourage. It is from the same root word we get *paraklete* (Holy Spirit). This word is used again in this same passage in verse 14. Here it is translated, “we urge you...” So the relationship between leaders and flock is one that is reflective of a calling alongside to aide and encourage each other. It is typical of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives, and how we can be more like God.

*Oikodomeite*-is the word used in verse 11 for “build up one another.” It's meaning is connected to building a house, starting with the internal structure, and setting a solid foundation for growth. The word is also used figuratively for edifying one another. It is interesting that edifying is not one directional, here it states in both directions, leaders and laity to each other.

We are exhorted in verse 12 to know and appreciate those who work hard (grow

tired), because of their diligence in ministry. And to love them extraordinarily for their work.

The final exhortation in this verse is to live in peace with one another. This word for peace here is in the verb form meaning, “to bring to peace, reconcile,” or “to do everything to keep peace.”

Short notes on meanings of words:

*Admonish: Exhort, warn, advise, put in their mind.*

*Unruly: not in battle-order, of troops, undisciplined, disorderly, irregular, lawless, -τως, in an irregular, disorderly manner.*

*Encourage: exhort, advise, comfort, soften down.*

*Fainthearted: feeble in spirit.*

*Help: to hold against, shade one's eyes, stand firmly in place.*

*Weak: insignificant.*

*Patient: long-suffering, God's kind of endurance toward us and our sins.*

NAU Romans 15:5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with **one another** according to Christ Jesus, 6 so that with **one** accord you may with **one** voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Therefore, accept **one another**, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God. 14 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**. 15 But I have written very boldly to you on some points so as to remind you again, because of the grace that was given me from God, 16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, so that *my* offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

**3. What are the two things that God gives that helps us be of the same mind with one another (v.5)?**

**4. What is the reason God wants us to be of the same mind and helps us to be of the same mind (v.6)?**

**5. What must we do on our end (v.7)?**

**Note: accept means to take and receive as one's own.**

In our world today there is not much tolerance toward people who admonish others. Anything that might be taken as criticism is greatly condemned, even by church leaders. Yet, it is very interesting that Paul was convinced that the people were filled with goodness, filled with knowledge, and able to admonish one another! This is a very important ingredient for spiritual and personal growth. Paul had to be bold on some points with the people so that his offering to God was acceptable, and sanctified! But he also encouraged edification in the ranks. There are things that need to be weeded out of our lives, because they keep us from truly growing in love and relationship in a healthy way with God and His people.

NAU Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpens iron, So **one** man sharpens **another**.

NAU Proverbs 9:7 He who corrects a scoffer gets dishonor for himself, And he who reproves a wicked man *gets* insults for himself. 8 Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you, Reprove a wise man and he will love you. 9 Give *instruction* to a wise man and he will be still wiser, Teach a righteous man and he will increase *his* learning.

**6. What has the wise person learned to do in response to teaching and admonition (v.8)?**

## 7. What do you think is the motivation for that love? (v.9)

**Jesus admonished us to be Salt in the world.**

NAU Mark 9:50 "Salt is good; but if the salt becomes unsalty, with what will you make it salty *again*? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with **one another**."

**Note salt is a preservative, a cleanser, a purifier, something adding flavor, and it was used in making covenants. When used figuratively, being salt in the world was preserving the teachings of the Lord; it was using our words and actions in such a way that others were purified; it added flavor and witness in our lives. It may be used to cleanse wounds and heal them. Jesus' last phrase in Mark 9:50 is in recognition that salt sometimes brings stress on relationships. But He wants us to be both Salt and at peace. This honors Him.**

## 8. How does the following verse compliment Mark 9:50?

NAU Hebrews 3:13 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.

## 9. Why is sin characterized as deceitful, and what does this have to do with the need for others to admonish us?

NAU Hebrews 10:24 and let us consider how to stimulate **one another** to love and good deeds, NAU Hebrews 10:25 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.

## 10. According to Heb. 10.24-25, what are some other areas in which we are to admonish one another?

## 11. What are some things we are admonished not to do in relationship to one another? Underline them in the Scriptures below.

NAU Leviticus 19:11 'You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to **one another**. 12 'You shall not swear falsely by My name, so as to profane the name of your God; I am the LORD. 13 'You shall not oppress your neighbor, nor rob *him*. The wages of a hired man are not to remain with you all night until morning. 14 'You shall not curse a deaf man, nor place a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall revere your God; I am the LORD. 15 'You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor nor defer to the great, but you are to judge your neighbor fairly. 16 'You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people, and you are not to act against the life of your neighbor; I am the LORD. 17 'You shall not hate your fellow countryman in your heart; you may surely reprove your neighbor, but shall not incur sin because of him. 18 'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.

## 12. Why do you think God said, "I am the Lord," after each phrase?

### III. Confronting People in Love.

**1. Underline the admonitions or characteristics below concerning wrong behavior toward or against each other.**

NAU James 4:11 Do not speak against **one another**, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge *of it*.

NAU James 5:9 Do not complain, brethren, against **one another**, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

LT 1 Corinthians 6:7 Already, indeed, then, there is altogether a fault among you, that ye have judgments with one another; wherefore do ye not rather suffer injustice? wherefore be ye not rather defrauded?

NAU Psalm 15:1 A Psalm of David. O LORD, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? 2 He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart. 3 He does not slander with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor takes up a reproach against his friend; 4 In whose eyes a reprobate is despised, But who honors those who fear the LORD; He swears to his own hurt and does not change; 5 He does not put out his money at interest, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken.

NAU Psalm 12:1 For the choir director; upon an eight-stringed lyre. A Psalm of David. Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases to be, For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men. 2 They speak falsehood to **one another**; With flattering lips and with a double heart they speak. 3 May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, The tongue that speaks great things; 4 Who have said, "With our tongue we will prevail; Our lips are our own; who is lord over us?" 5 "Because of the devastation of the afflicted, because of the groaning of the needy, Now I will arise," says the LORD; "I will set him in the safety for which he longs." 6 The words of the LORD are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.

NAU Matthew 24:10 "At that time many will fall away and will betray **one another** and hate **one another**."

**2. From Ps 15 above and Matt 5 below, what does our relationship with one another have to do with our relationship to God?**

Matt. 5:23 "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the **altar**, and there **remember** that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your offering there before the **altar** and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering."

**3. What does the Scripture above imply about the timing of reconciliation and the attitude of the one who has something against someone else?**

NAU James 5:16 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.

**4. What two things bring healing to stressed relationships according to James 5?**

**5. How can confessing specific sins heal others, and reflect humbleness in our relationship with God and each other?**

**6. In the Scriptures below, Circle the pitfalls in relationships to one another that are**

**not befitting to the fellowship of believers.**

eph 4: 25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE *of you* WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. 26 BE ANGRY, AND *yet* DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity. 28 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need. 29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a *word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear. 30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

**7. What things are we to rid ourselves of that destroy the type of relationships that God would have His people to have?**

**8. What is suppose to be our spiritual actions toward one another (v.32).**

**What often happens is that we put away a person instead of working through difficulties. Hurts from the past can stagnate our own growth in the Christian walk and manner of dealing with hurt and pain.**

**9. According to the following Scripture, how can we begin to respond to people correctly?**

ASV 2 Corinthians 10:5 casting down imaginations, and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ;

## **IV. Building Blocks for Stressed Relationships.**

**Read the following Scriptures and answer the questions.**

NAU Romans 12:10 *Be* devoted to **one another** in brotherly love; give preference to **one another** in honor; 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, 13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 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. 17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. 19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath *of God*, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. 20 "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

NAU Romans 13:8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love **one another**; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled *the* law.

NAU Romans 14:13 Therefore let us not judge **one another** anymore, but rather determine this-- not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

NAU Romans 14:19 So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of **one another**.

List the relational commands we are given in the Scriptures above:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.10a)

What actions reflect brotherly love lived out in the body and in personal relating?

2. \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 10b)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.11a, b, c)

4. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.12a)

5. \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 12b)

6. \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 12.c)

7. \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 13a, b)

8. \_\_\_\_\_ (14)

9. \_\_\_\_\_ (15 a,b)

10. \_\_\_\_\_ (16)

11. \_\_\_\_\_ (17, 19-21)

12. \_\_\_\_\_ (18)

13. \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom 13.8)

14. \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom 14:13)

15. \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom 14:19)

16. What is implied concerning the mutuality of the phrase, "Pursue the things that make for peace and building up one another."

17. In relation to healing, would these be things that only considered oneself, or that considered the needs of all?

18. In what ways have you pursued peace with others?

19. In what ways have you sought to know others interests as well as your own?

Gal 5:13 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**. 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**. 16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to **one another**, so that you may not do the things that you please. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. 26 Let us not become boastful, challenging **one another**, envying **one another**.

20. How is the whole law summed up?

21. How can we learn to trust others again, and what is the reason for the trust according to these Scriptures?

Eph 4:2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for **one another** in

love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 *There is one* body and **one** Spirit, just as also you were called in **one** hope of your calling; 5 **one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism, 6 **one** God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

**22. What two things are listed above to help us build good relationships?**

Philp. 2: 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.

**23. What four things are listed in the Scripture above that are building blocks for good relationships?**

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Col 3: 9 Do not lie to **one another**, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices, 10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the **One** who created him-- 11 *a renewal* in which there is no *distinction* between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all. 12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with **one another**, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. 14 Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in **one** body; and be thankful. 16 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. 17 Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

**24. List the building blocks from the passage above:**

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(v.9)

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(v10)

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(v.11)

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(v.12a,b,c,d,e)

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(v13a)

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(13b)

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(13c)

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**If we forgive complaints we have against others just as Jesus does, then we are growing toward maturity. Holding onto complaints and judging is counterproductive.**

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(v.14)

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(v.15)

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(v.16a,b,c,d,e)

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**When Jesus' Word "richly dwells in you," it pours itself out in these**

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## **manifestations in the body of Christ.**

**(v.17)**

### **What does in the name of the Lord Jesus mean?**

NAU 1 John 3:11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love **one another**;12 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. 13 Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 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? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

NAU Genesis 4:9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. **Am I my brother's keeper?**"

**25. From the Scriptures above, what was the motivation for killing Cain?**

**26. What are some ways this attitude is manifested between Christians?**

**27. When God confronts Cain with how he hurt his brother, what is his response?**

**28. What does this imply about our responsibility toward those we have hurt?**

**29. From all of the Scriptures above, What do you think is the desired completeness of our relationships with one another in Christ?**

**I have often pondered how Scriptures challenge us to be Christlike in very challenging ways. But what I have noticed about myself and others is that we tend to set up our own standards based more on our maturity level, understanding, life experience, and pleasures, rather than truly living the way God wants us to. Cain solved his own problem of frustration with his brother, but it was murder and against God. What we do to one another should be in line and in check with God's Word. If we measure actions against us, or our own actions, and they conflict with Scripture, they are wrong actions.**

## **V. Improving Relationships by Demonstrating the Faithfulness of God.**

NIV Proverbs 3:3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

**Note that the words love and faithfulness are the Hebrew words *Hesed* and *Amen*. The first word is God's covenantal love with His people. This kind of love is also expressed among people. In other translations, some have the word kindness or mercy here. The second word, *amen* means truth, steadfastness trust, loyalty, or faithfulness. There is a "both and" kind of effect when we are loving toward others as fellow covenant members and when we are loyal and truthful.**

Pro 27:10 Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend, And do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity; Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother far away.

**1. What are the admonitions in these two Proverbs?**

**2. How do these admonitions go against our cultural, philosophical, or psychological worldly teachings?**

## **VI. Building Relationships by the Proper Workings/Use of the Gifts.**

1Cor 12:21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; 23 and those *members* of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, 24 whereas our more presentable members have no need of *it*. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that *member* which lacked, 25 so that there may be no division in the body, but *that* the members may have the same care for **one another**. 26 And if **one** member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if **one** member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

NAU Romans 12:5 so we, who are many, are **one** body in Christ, and individually members **one of another**.

**1. According to the Scriptures above, what keeps the body of Christ operating in a healthy way?**

**2. How can one person bring hurt to the body?**

**3. What are the implications of the phrase, "individually members of one another"?**

1Pet 4: 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 manifold grace of God. 11 Whoever speaks, *is to do so* as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves *is to do so* as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Gal 6: 4 But each **one** must examine his own work, and then he will have *reason for* boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to **another**. 5 For each **one** will bear his own load. 6 The **one** who is taught the word is to share all good things with the **one** who teaches *him*.

**4. In relation to serving the Lord, who should be the one to examine our work (Gal 6:4-5)?**

**5. In verse 6, what is a natural relationship of student to teacher (Gal. 6:6)?**

## VII. The Missionary Message in Christian Relationships.

**1. Relationships are intended to share the witness and praise of God. Underline the characteristics and actions of people who are bearing witness through relationships in the scriptures below.**

NAU Psalm 145:4 **One** generation shall praise Your works to **another**, And shall declare Your mighty acts.

NAU John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love **one another**, even as I have loved you, that you also love **one another**.<sup>35</sup> "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for **one another**."

AU John 15: 9 "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. 10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full. 12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. 13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. 14 "You are My friends if you do what I command you. 15 "No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16 "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. 17 "This I command you, that you love one another. 18 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. 19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. 20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. 21 "But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.

**2. What is the one characteristic that out-weights all the others in our witness to the Gospel?**