

CHRISTIANS' DUTIES TO ONE ANOTHER

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INTRODUCTION

- A. *"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is begotten of God, and knoweth God....Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.....We love, because he first loved us. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, cannot love God whom he hath not seen. And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also."* (I John 4: 7, 11, 19-21).
- B. Love is so Obvious that it is often overlooked.
1. Must have been a problem then, for John to emphasis the importance of Love as much as he did.
 2. Do we have any problems of brotherly love in the church today?
 3. In our lesson, we look at the responsibility that we have to one another.
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PAUL'S INSTRUCTIONS

- A. *"For even as we have many members in one body, and all the members have not the same office: so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and severally members one of another."* (Romans 12:4,5).
1. One of the devil's main weapons in the church today is "division".
 2. The prayer of Jesus: *"that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me and I in thee, that they also may be in us: that the world may believe that thou didst send me."* (John 17:21).
 3. We can maintain this unity only by loving one another.
- B. READ I Corinthians 12:12-21.
- C. THE LESSON:
1. Can you imagine one member of the body angry or envious of another.
 2. The illustration in I Cor. Seems almost ludicrous or silly.
 3. It would be totally inappropriate.
 4. Try tying you shoe.....with one hand!
- D. We want to examine some of the MUTUAL DUTIES OF CHRISTIANS TO EACH OTHER, AS REFLECTED BY THE "ONE ANOTHER" PASSAGES.
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LOVE ONE ANOTHER

- A. *"These things I command you, that ye may love one another"* (Jn. 15:17).
1. This "one another" appears to be the most often mentioned. (Jn. 13:11,12; 15:12; Rom. 13:8; I Jn. 4:7,11,12; 2 Jn. 5; I Pet. 1:22).
 2. Why did Jesus stress that we should love one another?
 - a. Perhaps because others may not love us!
 - b. NOTE:
 - (1). "The world hateth you. (John 15:19).
 - (2). "They will persecute you" (John 15:20).
 - (3). "They will put you out of the synagogue.
 - (4). They will think they are serving God by killing you. (John 16:2).
 3. We need to read I Cor. 13, more often. LOVE HELPS US:
 - a. Be patient. b. Not envy. c. Not pout or boast. d. Be unselfish.
 - e. Endure. f. Think clearly, free of suspicion.
- B. *"Using hospitality one to another without murmuring:"* I Pet. 4:9.
1. Receive one another just as Christ received you(Rom. 15:7).
 2. Do we receive and help and serve one another?
- C. IF WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER WE WILL.....
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CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER

- A. *"...let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works"* Heb. 10:24.
1. Consider the effect this would have on the church and others.
 2. "Provoke" to love and good works. (We usually use the word "provoke" with an opposite meaning.
- B. *"Exhorting one another...."* (Heb. 10:25).
1. How long since we really exhorted one to be faithful?
 2. What is the opposite of exhorting...might as well ask... "What is the Opposite of Love?"
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SERVE ONE ANOTHER

- A. *"Through Love Be servants one to another"* (Gal. 5:13).
1. He then exhorts that we NOT *"bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another."* (Gal. 5:15).

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2. When I read this I think of the 'poem' "The Duel" or as we remember it.. "The Gingham Dog and the Calico Cat".
 - a. What happened to them? READ.
 - b. When we act that way, what happens, and has happened to the church?
 - B. Illustration: "In the French-English War, Admiral Phipps was anchored outside Quebec waiting for land forces so they could attack jointly. He was irked by statues of saints he saw on the roofline of a cathedral, so while waiting, he lowered his guns and began shooting them off. By the time the infantry arrived and they were ready to battle, he had used up all his ammunition "shooting at the saints".
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CONCLUSION

- A. *"Forbearing one another, and forgiving each other, if any man have a complaint against any; even as the Lord forgave you, so also do ye:"* (Col. 3:13).
 - B. *"Wherefore exhort one another, and build each other up, even as also ye do."* (I Thess. 5:11) K.J. "Edify one another".
 1. What is an "Edifice?"
 2. A building raised from the ground to become beautiful.
 3. When we Love One Another...we will help raise each other up.
 - C. Love One Another; Use Hospitality One To another; Consider One Another To Provoke To Love And Good Works; Exhorting One another; Comfort One another; Serve One Another, Pray One For Another; Forbearing One Another; Forgiving One Another; Edify One Another....
 - D. Are we fulfilling the prayer of Jesus? (John 17:21).
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THE DUEL

(The Gingham Dog and the Calico Cat)

by Eugene Field

The gingham dog and the calico cat
Side by side on the table sat;
'Twas half-past twelve, and (what do you think?)
Nor one nor t'other had slept a wink!

The old Dutch clock and the Chinese plate
Appeared to know as sure as fate
There was going to be a terrible spat.
(I wasn't there; I simple state
What was told to me by the Chinese plate!)

The gingham dog went "Bow-wow-wow!"
And the calico cat replied "Me-ow!"
The air was littered, an hour or so,
With bits of gingham and calico,
While the old Dutch clock in the chimney place
Up with it hands before its face,
For it always dreaded a family row!
(Now mind: I'n only telling you
What the old Dutch clock declares is true!)

The Chinese plate looked very blue,
And wailed, "Oh dear! What shall we do!"
But the gingham dog and the calico cat
Wallowed this way and tumbled that,
Employing every tooth and claw
In the awfulest way you ever saw-
And oh! How the gingham and calico flew!
(Don't fancy I exaggerate!
I got my news from the Chinese plate!)

Next morning where the two had sat
They found no trace of dog or cat;
And some folks think unto this day
That burglars stole the pair away!
But the truth about the cat and pup
Is this: they ate each other up!
Now what do you really think of that!
(The old dutch clock, it told me so,
And that is how I came to Know).