

One Another – Of Same Mind

Text : **Romans 12: 9-16 ; James 2: 1-9**

INTRODUCTION :

A. What kind of relationship do you have with Jesus ?

1. **Luke 8: 19-21** And His mother and brothers came to Him, and they were unable to get to Him because of the crowd. ²⁰ And it was reported to Him, “Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, wishing to see You.” ²¹ But He answered and said to them, “My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.”
 - a. These are the very closest, the most intimate physical relationships.
 - b. No relationship on earth is closer than the one in whose womb you were woven.
2. Notice that Jesus directly links relationship with obedience.
 - a. He does not link it to scholarship, to knowing God’s word.
 - b. He does not link it to understanding the deep meanings of God’s word.
3. This concept was strongly emphasized by Jesus.
 - a. **John 14: 15** ... If you love Me, obey Me.
 - b. **John 15: 14** ... If you want to be My friend, obey Me.
 - c. **Luke 6: 46** ... It’s foolish to call Me Lord and then not obey Me.
 - d. **Matt. 7: 21** ... Only those who obey the will of the Father will be saved.

B. All who would be followers of Jesus the Christ are commanded to obey His word.

1. **James 1: 22** ... We must apply the scriptures that we learn. (“doers” *initiate action*)
2. **James 2: 26** ... Our faith is of no value if it does not direct the way we live.

C. Do you want to be blessed of God ?

1. **Luke 11: 27-28** While Jesus was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed.” ²⁸ But He said, “On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.”
2. Jesus attributed value to the word ONLY once it is applied to one’s life.
John 13: 17 – If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.
3. The blessings don’t start until we have internalized the scriptures and act on them.
 - a. It is not the knowing that blesses us, but the doing.
 - b. We don’t adequately understand the scriptures until they are observed in our lives.

D. Thus, every time we read the scriptures we are looking for directions for life.

1. There is no merit in reading just for the sake of reading or just hearing lessons.
2. If our life isn't changing we don't understand the scriptures and aren't being blessed.

I said all that to ask this :

1. **What is your relationship with God ?**
2. **As you've heard these "One Another" messages, what have you done with them ?**
 - a. How has the word affected the way you **love** the brethren ?
 - b. Has it motivated you to be more **encouraging** to your brethren ?
 - c. Was your circle widened to **accept** all of the brethren ?
 - d. In what way have you been able to express your **preference** for the brethren ?
 - e. Have you found ways to **serve** the brethren ?
 - f. Are you more **forbearing** with your brethren than you were before ?
 - g. Are you more **forgiving** of the offenses of your brethren ?
 - h. Do you treat the brethren with **kindness** even when they don't deserve it ?
 - i. Have you increased your **hospitality** since we studied about being hospitable ?
 - j. Since our study, have you become more open and **honest** with the Brethren ?
 - k. What are you doing to **pursue peace** with the brethren ?

As we add "Be of the same mind toward one another" we want to reemphasize that these lessons aren't just suggestions "Wouldn't it be nice if we were to .."

We are learning the will of God and our relationship with Him is determined by how we respond to His commands.

**I. We must pay close attention to precisely what the text say :
 "Be of the same mind toward one another." Rom. 12: 16**

A. Many misread this verse to say: "Be of the same mind with one another"

1. An attitude *toward* and an attitude *with* are two very different concepts.
2. The word here is "*eis*" which means :
 into (573) , unto (207), to (281), towards (29), for (140), ...
 - a. It's used 1773 time in the N.T. and never once translated "with."
 - b. This is the same word used in **Acts 2: 38** "*For the forgiveness of sins.*"
3. The word which means to have in common "*with*" is totally different "meta."

B. God created both us and the church so He knows we're not mindless robots.

1. This is not a command for us to all think the same way about very thing.
 - a. Congregations are formed of very diverse people. (*social, economic, ethnic*)
 - b. The differences are important to the proper functioning of the church.
** Any cook knows, it's not even a recipe if all the ingredients are the same.*
2. God has taught us to be tolerant of other people's opinions about things.
 - a. We are not to look down on a brother who disagrees with us. (*Even about doctrine*)
Rom. 14: 1f – **Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.**
 - b. We are instructed to accommodate each other's differences rather than judge.
I Cor. 8: 13 – **Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble.**
3. However, we can only have this accepting attitude,
 if we have the **"same mind one toward another."** (*Can't do it feeling superior.*)

C. To have the same mind toward one another is to place the same value on all.

1. The value we place on others determines how we treat them.
Phil. 2: 1-4 **Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ² make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. ³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another (*regard = place a value*) as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.**
2. *Those of the same mind* : (Vs-2)
 - a. All love each other the same.
 - b. Each has a spirit of unity with all others.
 - c. All are working toward one and the same goal.
3. *The result of having the same mind is that* :
 - a. Each loses the desire to advance his personal interests.
 - b. Each seeks the welfare of all the others.
 - *c. Church is no longer something one goes to, but what he is and what he lives.

D. When we become of one mind, it changes our perspective of each other.

1. We will stop trying to treat each other like brothers and realize we *are* brothers.
2. **Luke 8: 19-21** ... *Jesus defines all true Christians as His family.*

II. Christians won't allow some family members to be treated differently than others.

A. To be of the same mind is to function without partiality.

James 2: 1-9 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. ² For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, ³ and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," ⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world *to be rich* in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? ⁷ Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?

⁸ If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF," you are doing well. ⁹ But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

1. Vs. **7** ... To honor the rich above the poor is to blaspheme the name of Jesus.
2. Vs. **9** ... To fail to treat everyone equally well is sin. (*revolutionary teaching in Rome*)

B. Impartiality is not just a N.T. concept. (*referenced 26 times in scripture*)

1. **Deut. 16: 19** – You shall not distort justice; you shall not be partial, and you shall not take a bribe,
2. **Lev. 19:15** – 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.

C. God demands impartiality from us because He is impartial.

1. **Deut. 10: 17** – For the Lord your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe.
 2. God gives no preferential treatment to any nationality. He judges all equally.
Rom 2: 11 – For there is no partiality with God.
 3. God gives no preferential treatment to the rich or to the poor.
Eph. 6: 9 – And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in Heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.
 4. God provides sun and rain for both the righteous and the wicked. ... **Matt. 5: 45**
- * (*Judas was at the table during the last supper and no one knew he was the betrayer.*)

B. Visitors get special attention because they are visitors, but all visitors are equal.

1. Every member has a responsibility to make every visitor feel welcome.
2. When the visitor becomes part of the family, he's treated like the rest of the family.

C. In Christ every family member is to be treated with equal love and respect.

1. There is no special class of Christians who have more seniority than others.
2. Teachers are not lifted up above others ... were there no class who would they teach.

**III. Remember Phil. 2 ... To be of the same mind we must be
 "maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose."**

A. The only way this is possible is for us to all crucify our old self daily.

1. **Gal. 5: 24-26** 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. (cf. ... **Col. 3:9**)
2. The old self is boastful ... challenging ... envying ,i.e., self-seeking.

B. The purpose for which Christians exist is that of bringing glory to God.

1. Every act of our lives should be calculated to achieve this objective.
I Cor. 10: 31 – Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
2. God is glorified in the church.
 - a. **Eph. 3: 20-21** Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, ²¹ to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.
 - b. **Eph. 5: 25-27** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶ so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless

C. A church that doesn't value itself as much as Christ valued it can't glorify Him.

1. Jesus surrendered Himself on the cross to purchase each individual member.
2. Likewise, we must be willing to surrender ourselves for each individual member.
3. Each of us must place the same value on our brothers that Jesus placed on them.
4. Jesus didn't place a special premium on any external factor - only faith & obedience.

CONCLUSION :

- A. We will never be in total agreement on everything, but we can “Be of the same mind toward one another.”**
1. If we are to be godly people we must be impartial toward our brethren. (*love all*)
 2. If we are to be Christ-like in our character we must treat all well.
Even the enemies of Jesus acknowledged that He did not show partiality.
Matt. 22: 16 – And they sent their disciples to Him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that You are truthful and teach the way of God in truth, and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any.
- B. We’ve seen that showing partiality is a sin, and it’s one that’s difficult to overcome. The followers of Jesus have struggled with it from the beginning.**
1. **Mark 9: 33-35** ... The disciples were rebuked for argued about who would be the greatest in the Lord’s kingdom.
 2. **Mark 10: 35-45** ... James and John didn’t learn the lesson. They sought prominence.
- C. Before one can have a proper view of others he must have a proper view of self.**
1. All of us started the same way ... sinners condemned and separated from God.
 2. All who are redeemed are redeemed by the same amount of the same blood.
 3. All are so highly valued by God that He died to make salvation available to them.
 4. Only when we realize this will we place the same value on every brother in Christ.
- D. Only when we learn to place the same value on all of God’s family will we learn to treat all of God’s family as our family.**
1. We must stop trying to treat each other **LIKE** they are our brothers and sisters.
 2. We must realize that if they are in Christ they **ARE** our brothers and sisters.

INVITATION :

- A. The question is ... Are you in Christ ?**
Are you a child of God ?
Are you a sibling to Christ ?
- B. Jesus died to bring you into His family.**
1. Young, old, rich, poor, educated or unlearned ... **He died for ALL.**
 2. If you will place your total faith in Him for salvation, surrender your life to Him and obey His will, He will save you.

Lesson Texts :**Romans 12: 9-16**

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. **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.

James 2: 1-9

1 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with *an attitude of* personal favoritism. **2** For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, **3** and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," **4** have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives? **5** Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? **6** But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? **7** Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?

8 If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF," you are doing well. **9** But if you show partiality, you are committing sin *and* are convicted by the law as transgressors.