

One-Another Ministry

Regarding Others as More Important Than Yourself

by Sarah Hartwig



*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit,
but with humility of mind regard one another
as more important than yourselves.*

Philippians 2:3

What is selfishness?

The expression “one another” comes from the Greek word *allellon*.

The word *allellon* (*al-lay'-lone*) appears 100 times in the NT and is translated the majority of the times as “one another”. It is also translated as “themselves,” “yourselves,” “together,” “mutual,” and various other ways.

I. Conclusions about “one another” commands.

A. The majority of the “one another” commands are positive.

1 Thess. 5:11 . . . *encourage one another* . . .

1 Thess. 5:15 . . . *always seek after that which is good for one another* . . .

Accept one another (Rom. 15:7); *give preference to one another* (Rom. 12:10); *pray for one another* (Jas. 5:16)

B. The emphasis of these “*one another*” commands is LOVE.

1. There are at least 12 direct commands in the NT to love one another.

Jn. 13:34 (2x); Jn. 15:12; Jn. 15:17; 1 Jn. 3:23 . . .
love one another . . .

Rom. 12:10 *Love one another with brotherly affection.* (ESV)

Rom. 13:8 *Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another.*

1 Pet. 1:22 . . . *fervently love one another from the heart.*

1 Jn. 3:11 . . . *that we should love one another* . . .
= message you’ve heard from the beginning

1 Jn. 4:7 . . . *let us love one another* . . .

1 Jn. 4:11 . . . *we also ought to love one another*

2 Jn. 1:5 . . . *that we love one another* . . . = the commandment we’ve had from the beginning

2. This emphasis fits with the second greatest command: to love your neighbor as yourself.

Mark 12:30-31 ³⁰“AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.” ³¹*The second is this, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” There is no other commandment greater than these.*

3. Jesus modeled loving others for us.

According to Lou Priolo, the essence of biblical love is giving.

Jn. 15:13 *Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.*

C. Believers are repeatedly commended in the NT for their love for one another.

1 Thess. 4:9 . . . *you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.* . . .

2 Thess. 1:3 . . . *the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater.*

Is our love for others apparent and commendable?

- D. Love describes how we're to carry out other *one another* commands.
 Gal. 5:13 . . . *through love serve one another.* . . .
 Eph. 4:2 *Walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called . . . showing tolerance for one another in love.*
 Heb. 10:24 . . . *let us consider how to stimulate [stir up] one another to love and good deeds . . .*
- II. Specific situations in which we're commanded to think of others.
- A. We're commanded to think of others in the exercise of our liberties.
 Rom. 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.*
 Rom. 14:19 . . . *let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding . . .* (ESV)
- B. We're commanded to think of others when we recognize how God has gifted other members of the body.
 1 Cor. 12:24-25 *God has so composed the body . . . that the members may have the same care for one another.*
 Rom. 12:5 . . . *so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another . . .*
- C. We're commanded to think of others when we observe the Lord's Table.
 1 Cor. 11:33 . . . *wait for one another . . .*
- D. We're commanded to think of one another within the physical relationship of marriage.
 1 Cor. 7:5 *Stop depriving one another.*
- E. We're commanded to think of others when we grieve over the death of a believer.
 1 Thess. 4:18 . . . *comfort one another with these words.*
- F. We're commanded to think of others when we show hospitality to one another.
 1 Pet. 4:9 *Be hospitable to one another without complaint.*

- G. We're commanded to think of others when we greet one another.
Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:12;
1 Pet. 5:14 *Greet one another with a holy kiss.*
(Greeting of warm affection)

III. What obedience to “one another” commands displays:

- A. A Spirit-filled walk
Gal. 5:15, 17, 26; 6:2; Eph. 5:21; 1 Jn. 1:7
- B. Christian growth
Eph. 4:2, 25, 32; Col. 3:9, 13; Tit. 3:3
- C. Harmony
Mk. 9:50; Rom. 12:16; Rom. 15:5, 7
- D. That we're following Christ's example of humility and service.
Jn. 13:14 . . . *you also ought to wash one another's feet . . .*
1 Pet. 5:5 . . . *and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another . . .*
Phil. 2:3
- E. That our care of each other extends to our words.
Jas. 4:11 *Do not speak against one another.*
- F. How our treatment of each other influences God's treatment of us.
Jas. 5:9 *Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged.*
- G. Our need for each other for personal spiritual ministry.
Jas. 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.*