

## Appendix 9: Defining our Need for Biblical Community

Life Groups are not simply a place to learn the Bible, find friendships and mutual care. They are a place to be in relationship where we can minister to one another. Many Christians think this is reserved only for the pastor or Life Group Leader, yet Scripture wants to encourage you in your calling to be a minister to others.

1. Read the list below and name 1-2 that you most relate with.

### **7 Reasons Why We Need Life in Community (“One-Another-ing”)**

- 1) Easy to disappear safely into the crowd – (need another to challenge to grow)
- 2) Easy to listen passively to a sermon – (need another to help be a doer of the Word)
- 3) Easy to evade redemptive crises in a large group – (need another follow-up and comfort)
- 4) Easy to avoid accountability and personal application – (need another to help you change)
- 5) Easy to not understand the Bible or sermon – (need another to answer questions)
- 6) Easy to pull away when discouraged – (need another to draw you out and encourage)
- 7) Easy to avoid telling others deeper prayer requests – (need another to pray for you)

### **12 Scriptures with a Call to Minister to “One-Another”**

1. **Rom. 12:10** - Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.
    - Love: pertaining to love or affection for those closely related to one
    - Outdo in showing honor: to do something with eagerness — (in this case, to show honor, value, or respect)
  2. **Rom. 15:14** - I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.
    - Instruct: to provide instruction as to correct behavior and belief — ‘to instruct, to teach, instruction, teaching.’
  3. **1Cor. 12:25** - that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.
    - Have the same care: to worry or have an anxious concern, based on apprehension about possible danger or misfortune
  4. **2Cor. 13:11** - Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another... live in peace...
    - Restore: to make someone completely adequate, qualified or sufficient for something
    - Comfort: to cause someone to be encouraged or consoled — ‘to encourage, to console, to exhort or appeal’
    - Agree: to think or give one’s mind to, to be of the same mind
  5. **Gal. 5:13** - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
    - Serve: to serve, normally in a humble manner and in response to the demands or commands of others — ‘to serve.’
  6. **Gal. 6:1** - Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness... 2 Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
- Eph. 4:2** - with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,
- Restore: to make someone completely adequate, qualified or sufficient for something
  - Bear: to provide continuous and possibly prolonged assistance; to help by supplying the needs of someone
  - Bearing with: to be patient with, in the sense of enduring possible difficulty

- 7. Col. 3:16** - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom...
- Teaching: to provide instruction in a formal or informal setting — ‘to teach, teaching.’
  - a) Admonish: to provide instruction as to correct behavior and belief — ‘to instruct, to teach, instruction, teaching.’
  - b) Admonish: to admonish someone for having done something wrong — ‘to admonish, to rebuke.’
- 8. 1Th. 4:18** - Therefore encourage one another with these words.
- 1Th. 5:11** - Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.
- Encourage: to cause someone to be encouraged or consoled — ‘to encourage, to console, to exhort or appeal’
  - Build up: to increase the potential of someone or something, with focus on the process involved — ‘to strengthen, to make more able, to build up.’
- Rom. 1:12** - that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours & mine.
- Mutually encouraged: to be encouraged at the same time with someone else — ‘to be encouraged together.’
- 9. \*Heb. 3:13** - But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
- Exhort: to cause someone to be encouraged or consoled — ‘to encourage, to console, to exhort or appeal’
- 10. Heb. 10:24-25** - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
- Stir up: the implication of stimulating a change in motivation or attitude — basically ‘to agitate one another’
  - Encourage: to cause someone to be encouraged or consoled — ‘to encourage, to console, to exhort or appeal’
- 11. James 5:16** - Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.
- Confess sins: to acknowledge your sin publicly to others — ‘to admit, to confess’
  - Pray for: to speak to or to make requests of God — ‘to pray, to speak to God, to ask God for, prayer.’
- 12. \*1Pet. 4:10** - As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace:
- Serve: to render assistance or help by performing certain duties, often of a humble nature — ‘to serve, help’

### Application Questions:

1. Which of the above “one-another’s” do you feel you are most experiencing in relationships with other believers?
2. Which are you least experiencing? Do you have other Christians to do that with?
3. What are ways you can “minister” to “one-another” in these ways through your relationships with others in your Life Group?

\* Note: There are many more “one another” verses that describe the biblical relationships we are to be in such as Eph. 4:2, 32, “...bearing with one another in love... Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”