

ONE ANOTHER

Edited by: Justin Morton

Something To Think About
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Justin Morton is the Student and Family Minister at the Karns Church of Christ in Knoxville, TN. He is married to the beautiful Miranda Morrison Morton and they have two awesome sons, Caden and Cameron.

He is a graduate of Freed-Hardeman University with both, a Bachelor of Arts and Master Degrees. Justin is the director of the Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies Leadership Camp held each year in June.

Other Books by Justin:

Against All Odds

Help! Someone I Love Has Died

How Great Is Our God

LABELS: Seeing As God Sees

Wisdom for Life: A Study of Proverbs

WASTED: The Life of Solomon

STAND OUT: God Didn't Create You To Just Fit In

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Fall ADVANCE

November 7th – 9th

Theme: One Another

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13:34-35

Friday Night – We Need One Another: God Didn't Intend for You to do it Alone (Heb. 10:24-25)

Saturday Morning – Don't Judge One Another: Learning to Accept One Another (Rom. 14:13; 15:7)

Saturday Class 1 – Don't Bite One Another: Building One Another Up (Heb. 3:12-13; Jam. 4:11)

Saturday Class 2 – Don't Compare with One Another: We're all Created for a Purpose (Gal. 5:22-26)

Afternoon Quiet Time: Pray for One Another (Jam. 5:16)

Saturday Night – Show Compassion to One Another (Col. 3:12-13)

Sunday Morning - Forgive One Another: You will be Hurt by One Another (Eph. 4:32)

WE NEED ONE ANOTHER:
God Didn't Intend for You to Do It Alone

Friday Night Devotional

Introduction: Have you ever felt alone? (ILLS: Pat Summit's early years of feeling alone)

From the Mountain to the Valley – It's typically during times in the valley when we feel the loneliest

- A. Elijah was coming off the greatest victory of his life (I Kgs. 18) and yet, he felt alone and wanted to die (I Kgs. 19:4, 10).
- B. Have you ever felt like Elijah? Have you ever felt like you were the only one?

God said, "It is NOT Good..."

- A. God was pleased with His creation (Gen. 1:31) until He saw man was alone (Gen. 2:18-25).
- B. God didn't intend for us to go through this life alone, that's why He created him a helper.

Alone is NOT an Option

- A. Elijah needed a widow to provide food (I Kgs. 17:1-16).
- B. Elisha needed a Shunammite woman to provide a place to stay (2 Kgs. 4:8-11).
- C. The church at Galatia needed one another to help bear their burdens (Gal. 6:1-2).
- D. Jesus needed fishermen to stand by Him during His most difficult moment (Mt. 26:36-46).

Clicks Don't Always Mix

- A. The Apostles didn't always click (Matt. 20:20-24). They had different backgrounds.
- B. God knew we wouldn't always click. If we did, there would have been no need for the verses that deal with our interaction with one another (Eph. 4:26-27, 29, 32; Col. 4:6).

We need Each Other

- A. Physical Need (Dorcas- Acts 9:36-39)
- B. Emotional Need (Rom. 12:15; "Pick me up!" / Eccl. 4:9-12).
- C. Spiritual Need (Eph. 4:11-12)
- D. Eternal Need (Heb. 10:24-25)

Conclusion: If we are going to get through this life with all it's difficulties and interruptions and still live faithful to God, we are going to need one another to offer up love and support.

DON'T JUDGE ONE ANOTHER:

Learning to Accept One Another

Saturday Morning

INTRODUCTION:

1. A recent study was done showing that the average American's first impression is given in about seven seconds.
 - a. That means that we are judged in the first seven seconds of meeting someone.
 - b. Sadly, we ourselves are guilty of the same problems.
 - c. My goal is to renovate your way of thinking and treating others.

BODY

- I. We can see that there are multiple ways of judging others. (The types of ways we should not judge others)
 - a. We judge others based on appearances (John 7:24).
 - b. We hypocritically judge others (Romans 2:1-5) (Matthew 7:5)
 - c. We judge others from a higher pedestal.
 - i. We often times fail to view people as equals.
 - ii. Everyone has potential.
 - iii. Everyone has a soul.
- II. Instead of judging someone quickly what are some things we should do?

- a. We need to get to know the person.
- b. We need to become a friend to that person.
- c. We must not simply judge them based on their appearances.

III. God looks at the heart (1 Sam. 16:7)

- a. We cannot be so quick to judge someone based on how they look.
- b. Judging someone based on looks is like the cliché saying...
 - i. You can't judge a book by its cover.
 - ii. If we do not know what is inside we cannot accurately understand who the person is.

CONCLUSION

IV. There is a way in which we should judge.

- a. The saying "only God can judge us."
 - i. People that often times are living a life of sin.
 - ii. Don't want others to look at them as sinful.
- b. We are to righteously judge someone (John 7:24)
 - i. We must judge between what is good and evil (Hebrews 5:14)
 - ii. We do this so we can show others where they may be living in sin.
 - iii. Show people how and where they are living in sin.
- c. Be careful when judging someone based on good and evil.

- i. Be sure to do so fairly. (Not to make ourselves look better)
 - 1. Pull them off to the side
 - 2. Show them you are doing so with love.
- ii. Not hypocritically
 - 1. If it is something you do just as much we must first..
 - a. Remove the plank from our own eye.
 - b. Then do so lovingly.
 - 2. It all boils down to having love for one another.
 - a. It can show we care.
 - b. We will not judge in the first place.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some reasons why we judge other people?
2. With what kind of judgment are we to judge others with and why?
3. How long does it take to make a first impression? (or for a judgment to be made)
4. What bible verse talks about God looking at the heart?
5. What bible verse talks about how we are to not judge based on outward appearances?
6. What is the best way to judge someone based on the sin in his or her life?
7. In the grand scheme of things it all boils down to one key word, what is it?

DON'T BITE ONE ANOTHER:

Build One Another Up

Saturday Morning Class 1

Introduction:

- A. Hurting one another is one of the most cruel things we can do.
- B. We might not realize that we can do this when we are not even meaning to.
- C. Jesus is the perfect example for us, and we need to model our lives after his.

Discussion:

I. Jesus Loved and Served Others.

- A. Jesus loved and served others when the need was obvious.
(Luke 10:25-37)
 - 1. The Lawyer and the Samaritan both needed help.
 - 2. Jesus chose the way of love to provide that help.
 - 3. Jesus was here to show people to love because the need was obvious.
- B. Jesus loved and served others when they really didn't need it.
(John 13:6-9, 15)
 - 1. The apostles were not hurting for the love and care of Jesus.
 - 2. However, it was necessary for Jesus' teaching.
 - 3. The apostles learned that love and service should never be forgotten.
- C. Jesus loved and served others when they didn't deserve it.
(Luke 22:51; John 18:10-11)
 - 1. The only thing on Malchus' mind was trying to please his master.
 - 2. Jesus cared for Malchus when Malchus didn't care about Jesus.
 - 3. This is what separates every human being from Jesus.

II. We Should Love and Serve Others.

- A. Jesus' purpose on this earth was to fulfill the Law (Matt. 5:17-18).
 - 1. Associating with sinners and tax collectors
 - 2. Our lives should be modeled after this behavior.
- B. As Christians today, it is our duty to fulfill the Law (Gal. 6:2; Rom. 13:8-10).
 - 1. It is important to keep our actions toward others in check.
 - 2. How we treat one another is how we treat the Lord.
(Matt. 25:41-46)

III. Forgetting to Love and Serve One Another is Dangerous.

- A. The contrast to loving one another is hurting one another.
 - 1. "Biting" and "devouring" one another are works of Satan.
(1 Pet. 5:8)
 - 2. If we choose this behavior, we are choosing Satan over God.
- B. This kind of behavior brings separation.
 - 1. It destroys the relationship with God between both parties.
 - 2. It destroys the relationship between you and the other person.
 - 3. It destroys relationships within the church.
 - 4. It destroys the reputation of the church.

Conclusion:

- A. We should evaluate how we treat one another.
- B. There is always room for improvement in this area.
- C. Remember how you want to be treated and treat others in that way.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some ways we can keep from biting one another?
2. What are some ways we can react to others biting one another, including us?
3. Are there times when biting another person is ok? If so, explain.
4. If there are times when it is ok, how should we go about doing it?

DON'T COMPARE WITH ONE ANOTHER:

We Are All Created for A Purpose

Saturday Morning Class 2

1. THE BODY OF CHRIST HAS MANY MEMBERS

- A. NOT ALL MEMBERS HAVE THE SAME FUNCTION.
- B. EVERY FUNCTION IS CRUCIAL TO THE OPERATION OF THE BODY.

2. HOW FAMILY INTIMACY IS TO PERMEATE CHURCH LIFE

- A. IN OUR "RELATIONSHIP" WITH EACH OTHER...
- B. IN OUR "CONCERN" FOR EACH OTHER...
- C. IN OUR "DISCIPLINE" OF ONE ANOTHER...
- D. IN "SERVICE" TO ONE ANOTHER...

3. BUILDING FAMILY INTIMACY IN THE CHURCH

- A. WE MAY NEED TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH EACH OTHER...
- B. THIS TRUTH IS "EMPHASIZED" IN THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE...

4. THE NATURE OF OUR DIFFERENCES

- A. THE DIFFERENCES IN A CHURCH CAN BE MANY...
- B. ALL THESE DIFFERENCES POSSESS POTENTIAL FOR DISRUPTION...

5. GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD "ACCEPTANCE"

- A. GOD WANTS US TO BE ONE, AND ACCEPT ONE ANOTHER...

6. APPLYING THE CONCEPT OF "ACCEPTANCE"

7. WHAT ARE SOME ATTITUDES WE NEED TO MAINTAIN?

8. THE "TOGETHER" ASPECT OF LIFE IN CHRIST

A. ILLUSTRATIONS OF TOGETHERNESS.

9. WE SHOULD WALK IN THE SPIRIT

A. NOT CONCEITED...

B. NOT PROVOKING...

C. NOT ENVYING...

D. Paul's discourse on the flesh and the spirit Gal 5:22-26

E. Matt 22:39 and James 2:8 "Love your neighbor as you love yourself"

10. SELF-ESTEEM AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

A. SELF-ESTEEM AND THE CHRISTIAN

B. UNDERSTANDING SELF-ESTEEM...

C. THE CHRISTIAN'S BASIS FOR SELF-ESTEEM...

D. POOR SELF-ESTEEM HINDERS SPIRITUAL GROWTH...

E. PROPER SELF-ESTEEM ENHANCES SPIRITUAL GROWTH...

F. PRACTICAL STEPS FOR IMPROVING SELF-ESTEEM...

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why are their differences among us?
2. What control do you have over most of those differences?
3. What should be our attitude toward one another?
4. How can we help each other with self-esteem?
5. Is it important to love ourselves?
6. How can we develop a focus on others instead of ourselves?

SHOWING COMPASSION TO ONE ANOTHER

Saturday Night Devotional

Introduction:

- A. What is compassion?
- B. Paul tells us to put on/clothe ourselves with compassion (Col. 3:12-13).
- C. Have you ever been shown compassion?

What Compassion is Not:

- A. Compassion is not merely sympathy...it's not just feeling sorry for someone.
- B. Compassion is not empathy...putting yourself in another's position.

What is Compassion?

- A. "A Sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it"
- B. Opening Video: Brandon Wright (21 yr. Old) from Utah whose motorcycle was hit and he was trapped under a burning car.

The Good Samaritan (Lk. 10:30-37).

- A. Jerusalem to Jericho is a distance of 17-20 miles. The road was known as "The Bloody Way", "The Red Way", or "The Pass of Blood." It ran through rocky, desert country, which provided places for robbers to hideout.
- B. The problem was the Priest/Levite didn't want to get involved (busy? Ceremonially unclean?)
 - 1. The opposite of compassion is not hatred, it's indifference and apathy.
 - 2. There are a lot of reasons why we don't want to take time to show compassion.
- C. The Samaritan took action...Compassion is seeing something wrong and doing something about it.

Jesus' Went About Doing Good (Acts 10:38; Matt. 9:35-38)

- A. Jesus saw the crowds (v. 36) – we need to see the harassed, helpless, broken
- B. Jesus felt compassion (v. 36)
- C. Jesus Took Action (v. 35) His compassion propelled him into ministry.

Compassion is an Action: What should a Compassionate heart propel us to do?

- A. Compassion meets the physical needs of others
 - 1. We need to look for opportunities to help others (I Jn. 3:17-18).
 - 2. We feed, clothe, shelter and visit, all in the name of Jesus (Matt. 25:31-46).
 - 3. ILLS: Food pantry at church is a means of compassion ...what are you doing in your personal life to meet the physical needs of others?
- B. Compassion takes action in the spiritual lives of others
 - 1. Jesus came to call sinners to repentance (Luk. 5:31-32).
 - 2. Paul taught that we have an obligation to those who are involved in sin (Gal. 6:1-2).
 - 3. The world wants us to love and be compassionate toward others by not calling sin, what it is...SIN.
 - 4. Telling someone they are going down a road that leads to pain, suffering and possibly death is compassionate. Not telling them is not only not compassionate, it is sinful!
 - 5. ILLS: Parents swatting their children when they reach for something hot.
 - 6. Sparing others feelings at the expense of their physical and spiritual well-being is not what God wants.
- C. Compassion motivates us to give our hands dirty...we must get involved (Gal. 6:10).
 - 1. One of the worst things you can do for someone is nothing! Don't neglect...people die because no one cares.

Compassion Can Change Lives.

- A. Jesus felt compassion for a man with leprosy and changed his life (Mk. 1:40-41).
- B. Brandon Wright is alive today because some people took time to do something.
- C. When Christians are truly compassionate people, they will change the lives of the people around them.
- D. God's compassion for us drove him to provide a way out from the penalty of our sins.

Conclusion:

- A. No one ever said compassion was easy. Compassion is costly! (It cost time, money, energy).
- B. The compassion of Christians is a tool that God can use to reach the hearts and souls of others.
- C. Are you demonstrating a heart of compassion toward others? (Jn. 13:34-35)

FORGIVVE ONE ANOTHER:
You Will Be Hurt By One Another

Sunday Morning

Forgiveness is a Powerful Force

- A. Think back to someone in your life who you had a hard time forgiving?
- B. What made it so hard to forgive that person?
- C. Forgiveness affects us all at every stage in our lives. (EX: Relationships)

Forgiveness is a Command, NOT a Suggestion

- A. Matt. 6:14-15
- B. Col. 3:12-13
- C. Eph. 4:32

Forgiveness is Hard, but Hate is Harder

- A. Forgiveness is not overlooking the wrong.
- B. Forgiveness is not minimizing or excusing the wrong.
- C. Who is getting hurt when we chose not to forgive?
- D. "The miracle of forgiveness is not the creation of a new beginning. It does not take away the hurt. It does not deny the past injury. It merely refuses to let them stand in the way of a new start." – Lewis B. Smedes (Forgive and Forget).

Forgiveness is Continual (Matt. 18:21-22).

- A. Forgiveness is better for us than not forgiving.
- B. EX: kind of like telling your kids to eat their vegetables.
- C. Love keeps no record of wrongs (I Cor. 13:5).

Forgiveness is Limitless (Matt. 18:23-27).

- A. Our problem is not that we don't know to forgive, it's when we think we don't have to forgive.
- B. The king could have thought he didn't have to forgive.
- C. Stephen could have used the logic that he didn't need to forgive (Acts 7:59-60).

Right Your Wrong – We Must Be Willing to Seek Forgiveness

- A. Admit that you were wrong (ex: David's biggest problem after his sin with Bathsheba was his unwillingness to seek forgiveness.
- B. Look to be reconciled (Matt. 5:23-24) – reconcile means, "to restore to friendship or harmony." Jesus teaches the importance of reconciliation.