

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 03 Dec - 10:30AM. Stefan speaking

Saturday 09 Dec - AIM session: Biblical counselling

Sunday 10 Dec - 10:30AM. Dr Andy Boakye speaking

Sunday 17 December - 10:30AM. Carol service

Sunday 24 December - 10:30AM. Service

Sunday 31 December - 10:30AM. Service

Sunday 07 January - 10:30AM. Church service

Love One Another

Did you know that the two words 'one another' in English or actually one word in Greek — allelon (pronounced ah-LAY-loan)? How is this word used?

100

100 times in 94 New Testament verses

47

47 of those verses give instructions to followers of Jesus

60%

Paul wrote 60% of the 'one another' commands

4 are about kissing. Careful with those!

What do these verses emphasise? They cover a wide variety of areas, but three of the most significant are unity, love and humility.

1. Unity (around 1/3rd of the verses)

Consider what these verses say about maintaining and growing unity and how practising them can prevent disunity developing.

- ✦ Be at peace with one another (Mk 9:50)
- ✦ Don't grumble among one another (Jn 6:43)
- ✦ Be of the same mind with one another (Ro 12:16, 15:5)

- ✦ Accept one another (Ro 15:7)
- ✦ Wait for one another before beginning the Eucharist (1 Co 11:33)
- ✦ Don't bite, devour, and consume one another (Ga 5:15)
- ✦ Don't boastfully challenge or envy one another (Ga 5:26).
- ✦ Gently, patiently tolerate one another (Ep 4:2)
- ✦ Be kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving to one another (Ep 4:32)
- ✦ Bear with and forgive one another (Co 3:13)
- ✦ Seek good for one another, and don't repay evil for evil (1 Th 5:15)
- ✦ Don't complain against one another (Jas 4:11, 5:9)
- ✦ Confess sins to one another (Jas 5:16)

2. Love (around 1/3rd of the verses)

Consider what these verses say about maintaining and growing Christ-like love.

- ✦ Love one another (Jn 13:34, 15:12, 17; Ro 13:8; 1 Th 3:12, 4:9; 1 Pe 1:22; 1 Jn 3:11, 4:7, 11; 2 Jn 5)
- ✦ Through love, serve one another (Ga 5:13)
- ✦ Tolerate one another in love (Ep 4:2)
- ✦ Greet one another with a kiss of love (1 Pe 5:14)
- ✦ Be devoted to one another in love (Ro 12:10)

3. Humility (around 15% of the verses)

Consider what these verses say about maintaining and growing Christ-like humility.

- ✦ Give preference to one another in honour (Ro 12:10)
- ✦ Regard one another as more important than yourselves (Php 2:3)
- ✦ Serve one another (Ga 5:13)
- ✦ Wash one another's feet (Jn 13:14)

- ✦ Don't be haughty: be of the same mind (Ro 12:16)
- ✦ Be subject to one another (Ep 5:21)
- ✦ Clothe yourselves in humility toward one another (1 Pe 5:5)

4. The Rest

- ✦ Do not judge one another, and don't put a stumbling block in a brother's way (Ro 14:13)
- ✦ Greet one another with a kiss (Ro 16:16; 1 Co 16:20; 2 Co 13:12)
- ✦ Husbands and wives: don't deprive one another of physical intimacy (1 Co 7:5)
- ✦ Bear one another's burdens (Ga 6:2)
- ✦ Speak truth to one another (Ep 4:25)
- ✦ Don't lie to one another (Co 3:9)
- ✦ Comfort one another concerning the resurrection (1 Th 4:18)
- ✦ Encourage and build up one another (1 Th 5:11)
- ✦ Stimulate one another to love and good deeds (He 10:24)
- ✦ Pray for one another (Jas 5:16)
- ✦ Be hospitable to one another (1 Pe 4:9)

Community is God's idea. He created Eve to be with Adam because it was not good for him to be alone (Genesis 2.18). He needed a one another. The church is his latest and final community before the end of time. It is the place where one another-ism is the culture — a culture that reflects the heart of God.

Community is vital to maturation and transformation. The fellowship, through its exercise of the one another passages, shapes our identity, rubs off our rough edges, and inspires us to dream for God.

The regular mentoring, teaching, training, counselling, coaching we receive — all within a strong and loving atmosphere of unconditional love — pour water on the soil of our hearts enabling the seed of faith to grow.

The question for each of us in this Watford Christian community is how we can practice these one another commands? To do so effectively requires that we check three things.

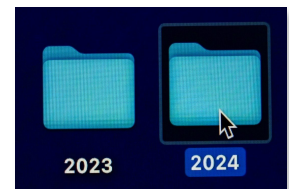
Questions for Reflection

1. Understanding: Do we understand what the Bible teaches, why God gave us these commands, and how to practice them?
2. Heart: Do we have a willing heart open to practising the one another commands no matter the cost, because we wish to be more like Jesus?
3. Faith: Are we looking to God for the strength to practice the one another commands, knowing that we do not practice them for what we receive, but because we trust God?

- Your brother, Malcolm

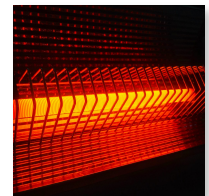
2024

If you have suggestions for events or subjects for preaching and teaching next year please pass them on to me. Malcolm



Heating

The heaters will be fixed starting 20th December. Until then please bring extra layers and, if you like, your own heater to plug in!



Watford Media

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj9Qa8D9zumJZdoAtARDUww>

Podcast: <https://www.podbean.com/pu/pbblog-aiinq-1aef90>