



## THE TEN “ONE ANOTHERS”

Growing up in a legalistic church environment, I was taught that my Christian journey was about obeying the Ten Commandments. I believed that if I fell short of perfect conformity to the requirements of the Decalogue, I would end up in hell. My religious regimen was based on achieving unblemished law-keeping. I would realized later on that I was incapable of reaching the level of performance that is acceptable to God.

I’m so thankful for God’s grace and mercy. His Spirit has taught me that God’s plan for humankind revolved around relationships, not rules. Jesus Christ came to restore us to God’s family. He did not come to die in our place so we can have a law-based religion. The core is Jesus’ teaching is relational, not legalistic.

We find in the New Testament that Christ and His apostles taught believers that being Christ’s followers is about *loving one another* (**John 13:34-35**). Jesus talked about a “new commandment” that He demonstrated in His life ministry (**Phil. 2:5-8**) and was to serve as the lodestar of the Christian’s journey to God. Instead of focusing on the Ten Commandments of the Mosaic Covenant, we are to grow in experiencing the “**Ten One Others.**”

1. *Serve one another* (**1 Peter 4:10**). To follow Jesus means to be a servant to others. Christ exemplified servanthood in His earthly ministry. He came not in order to be served but to serve others. Our journey to Christlikeness is the process of abandoning self-centeredness.

2. *Accept one another* (**Rom. 15:7**). The Good News of Jesus is that we have been accepted by God just as if we have never sinned. He did this, not because we have done something to merit His approval, but because of Jesus’ completed work of redemption for us. For the same reason, we are to accept one another in the same way Christ has accepted us – by grace.

3. *Encourage one another* (**1 Thes. 5:11**). The root word of “courage” comes from “cour” or heart. To be discouraged means to lose heart. It is easy to lose heart when we face failures and disappointments. To encourage means to put your heart into someone who is losing his heart. Encouraging, then, means the sharing of our hearts. Whenever someone shares his heart, how he is getting down on himself because of his circumstances, you need to share your heart too. You need to pour out of your heart into his heart whatever is needed to build him up and strengthen his heart.

4. *Teach one another* (**Rom. 15:14**). Every member receives supernatural resources from the Holy Spirit for the healing and growth of other members.

5. *Bear one another’s burdens* (**Gal. 6:2**). Christ’s church is a community that He designed for burden-sharing. We were never meant to face our troubles alone. Our moral burdens and weaknesses are intended to be shared and lived in community. This is how we fulfill the law of Christ.

6. *Confess to one another* (**James 5:16a**). A healing community is characterized by acceptance, affirmation and accountability. When disclosure is made in a spiritual community, it is for the purpose of acknowledging one’s need of ministry from others in the group.

7. *Pray for one another* (**James 5:16b**). We learn not only to accept each other’s faults and failures, we also learn to trust each other’s passion for interceding for one another. Full disclosure happens so prayers of intercession will flow from each other. In such a healing environment, great things happen.

8. *Give preference to one another* (**Rom. 12:10**). Affection for each other is one sign of a loving relationship. This involves being available to each other, preferring and honoring each other over ourselves.

9. *Forgive one another* (**Eph. 4:32**). Understanding the depth of our sinful nature, we expect to fail and disappoint each other. When it happens, we are disappointed but not surprised. Instead, we have stored up a reserve of forgiveness for each other because we made allowance for it.

10. *Live in harmony with one another* (**Rom. 12:16**). We need to be in a community if we are to grow as lovers like Christ. We need each other in order to mature in Christlikeness. It is in a relational community that Christ’s disciples become like Him.

The Bible is clear about love relationships being more important than law-keeping and good deeds. What we know, believe, say, give or accomplish – no matter how great or impressive they are – will mean nothing in God’s sight without loving (**1 Cor. 13**). Let me summarize it like this: God says that I can have the eloquence of an orator, the knowledge of a genius, the faith of a miracle worker, the generosity of a philanthropist, or the achievements of a superstar, but if I don’t have love in my heart, it is worth zero. It doesn’t count. The only thing that matters to God is this: Do I love Him and do I love other people?

Stripped of all man-made rules and traditions, the law upon which the church of Christ was established is simply this: Loving by sharing one another’s life. The followers of Christ no longer focus on personal requirements for earning God’s acceptance. They have been accepted in Christ. Nothing can change that. Now they are free to focus on accepting and loving each other in the same way they have been loved and accepted by God in Christ.