

THANKFUL FOR OTHERS

Gary Maze, a faithful friend of our church, often shares a list of many of the commands given to followers of Christ regarding relationships; Gary refers to this as his “One Anothering” list.

We are to fellowship with one another (Acts 2:42-47), love one another (John 13:34), care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:24-25), bear one another’s burdens (Galatians 6:2), encourage and build up one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11), submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21), admonish one another, spur one another on to good deeds (Hebrews 10:24) and confess our sins to one another (James 5:16).

We must not ignore the biblical importance of community. When we consider Paul’s letters to the churches found throughout the New Testament, we find that a shared connection with God leads to thanksgiving for others:

- *We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers* (1 Thessalonians 1:2).
- *I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers* (Ephesians 1:16).
- *First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world* (Romans 1:8).
- *I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy* (Philippians 1:3-4).
- *We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you* (Colossians 1:3).

- *We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing* (2 Thessalonians 1:3).

As members of the Body of Christ, our unity in Christ must lead us to a deeper appreciation and love for one another. When we truly understand the blessing of being in community together, our response will be thankfulness to God.

Prayer prompt: Think about the relational blessings God has given you. Take some time and thank God for the people he has placed in your life. Ask him to give you a deeper love and a greater desire to pray for others.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus...

1 Corinthians 1:4

The only proper response to grace is gratitude.

- John Onwuchekwa

*Others, Lord, yes, others,
Let this my motto be;
Help me to live for others,
That I may live like Thee.*

- Charles D. Meigs