

SESSION 5 — ONE-ANOTHERING

KEY POINTS

- The Bible instructs us to love one another and this can only be done in the context of being in a small biblical community.
- God has created in us a longing for community, for security and significance.
- The Church is an avenue where we can experience spiritual friendships and authentic relationships to sharpen one another as we mature in Christ.
- We have a part to play in building and nurturing our cell community.
- We are human and will experience different levels of woundedness in relationships. However, it is also in relationships where we will find healing.

SESSION SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

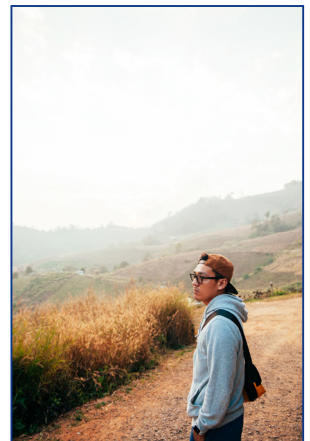
“One-Another” is used 100 times in 94 New Testament verses and 47 verses were instructions to us as Christ-followers, focused on relating to another as a church (Eph. 4:25, 32, Phil. 2:3, Col. 3:12, 1 Thess. 5:11). “One Another” commands instruct us to love one another. “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” (John 13:34)

3 KEY PRINCIPLES OF ONE-ANOTHERING

1. We Have A Longing For Community

God is inherently relational and we are created relational (in His image). Our relational needs are met in community with one another. Though we are fallen and can be self-centred at times, spiritual maturity cannot happen with a “just me and my Jesus” mindset. We need each other in our faith journey.

Ps. Dinah shared of an example of a friend who challenged her to be connected to a church community using Hebrews 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.”

The two deepest longings of man:

- For security – the desire to be unconditionally loved
- For significance – the desire to make a difference in our world

Are we friends or just being friendly to each other? One-Anothering requires spiritual friends. One-Anothering requires us to be in community. RiverLifers were exhorted not to be “familiar strangers” - where we see each other every week but are not connected spiritually and emotionally. People will feel belonged and are more likely to stay when they have friends in the church (at least 7) or are connected to a community within the church.

2. God Provides Real Community Through His Church



*“... I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued My faithfulness to you.” - **Jeremiah 31:3***

God has so created us and our world that it is often through other believers that we experience the depth of His love.

*“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us.” - **1 John 4:11-12***

*“... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.” - **Philippians 2:12-13***

The community we deeply long for is found in a relationship with God and the people of God, the church. People are transformed by others through Jesus Christ, and also experience the depth of His love through others.

*“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the pure heart.” - **1 Peter 1:22***

3. We Nurture Our Cell Community

The heart of our cell community must be based on a shared experience of our lives in Christ.

Ps. Dinah shared that RiverLife has an established front door, and we can grow as cells in reaching out to unconnected visitors. She also recounted the stories of 3 different RiverLifers who connected newcomers

to their cell.

The Bible from cover to cover speaks about community – from the Trinity, the Garden of Eden, Jesus and His disciples and the church in Acts. A healthy church establishes smaller groups of people to fulfil the biblical mandate of making disciples who will obey Scripture to love, care for and serve one another.

“If churches today are serious about forming people as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, small groups must be the centre of the congregation’s life.”

Steven W. Manskar

A healthy cell environment supports healthy spiritual growth to become disciples of Christ for a lifetime. Cell churches have cell leaders who serve together with their core teams. Our cell commitment spells out how One-Anothering nurtures our cell community.



OUR CELL COMMITMENT

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Presence | - Giving priority to being around and contributing to our weekly cell gatherings to behold Christ and reveal Him. |
| 2. Spiritual Hunger | - Spurring each other in our pursuit of Christ and growth in Christlikeness. |
| 3. Confidentiality | - Not gossiping or repeating what is shared by others in our cell community unless given permission to do so. |
| 4. Accountability | - Not giving in to the enemy’s schemes to isolate us especially when we are not doing well spiritually or when we are offended. Instead, we share our struggles and work through it with those who offend us. |

5. Respect

- Esteeming each other's uniqueness and spiritual journey in our interactions with one another. Preferring others before ourselves.

6. Care

- Showing concern for each other in prayer, words and practical ways.

7. Outreach

- Interceding for people far from Christ in our campuses, offices and homes. Intentionally befriending pre-believers and sharing our faith with them.

"As iron sharpens iron so one man sharpens another." – Proverbs 27:17

CONCLUSION



Ps. Dinah also showed a picture of a painting titled 'Trinity' by Andrei Rublev, where the figures representing the Holy Trinity look so similar that one cannot identify the Father, Son or Holy Spirit. In fact, we are created in the image of God; this call us and draws us into community.

Big Doors Swing on Small Hinges

We have heard of community, but some of us are unsure whether to commit. Some have experienced varying degrees of woundedness in community. The irony is that it is also in community that we find healing and wholeness. It is our choice to open or close the door to Biblical community.