

One Another Passages in the New Testament

1. Introduction

- a. The New Testament often refers to activities that involve interaction with "one another."
- b. Some of these activities are negative in nature, while others are presented in a positive light and are commanded to be done.
- c. Such commands are difficult, if not impossible, to obey when believers choose to isolate themselves by abstaining from being part of a local assembly.

2. Vocabulary

- a. There are three words in the Greek language that can express the idea of "one another."
- b. The most common word is ἀλλήλων #240
BDAG: *each other, one another, mutually.*
- c. Also used fairly often is ἑαυτοῦ #1438
BDAG: *oneself (yourselves, themselves, etc.).*
- d. We will also see one occurrence of ἄλλος #243
BDAG: *other.*

3. Development

a. Speaking Uses

1) About Christ

- a) His Birth (Luke 2:15).
- b) His Teaching (John 4:33; 16:17, 19; Mark 9:10^ε; Mark 9:34).
- c) In Fear/Amazement (Mark 4:41 || Luke 8:25; Luke 4:36).
- d) Against Him (Mark 14:4^ε; Luke 6:11; John 6:52; 7:35^ε).
- e) At the Cross (Mark 15:31; John 19:24).
- f) Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:14, 17, 32).
- g) Misc. (Mark 8:16; John 11:56; 12:19).

2) About Paul (Acts 26:31; 28:4, 25).

3) Plotting/Reasoning (Mark 12:7^ε; Luke 20:14; Acts 4:15).

4) Commands

- a) No Grumbling (John 6:43).
- b) Do Not Lie (Col. 3:9).
- c) Do Not Complain (James 5:9; 1 Pet. 4:9).
- d) Do Not Speak Against (James 4:11).
- e) Confess Sins and Pray (James 5:16).
- f) Admonishment (Rom. 15:14; Col 3:16^ε).
- g) In Song (Eph. 5:19^ε).

- 5) Greetings/Farewell (Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:12; 1 Pet. 5:14; Acts 21:5).
 - 6) Misc. (Mark 16:3^ε; Luke 7:32; Acts 2:12^α).
- b. Non-Speaking Negative Uses
- 1) Betrayal (Matt 24:10).
 - 2) Unrighteous Friendship (Luke 23:12).
 - 3) Glory from Men (John 5:44).
 - 4) Injury (Acts 7:26).
 - 5) Charges Against (Acts 19:38).
 - 6) Lawsuits (1 Cor. 6:7^ε).
 - 7) Judgment (Rom. 14:13).
 - 8) Unnatural Desire (Rom. 1:27).
 - 9) Deprivation (1 Cor. 7:5).
 - 10) Devouring (Gal. 5:15).
 - 11) Opposition (Gal. 5:17).
 - 12) Challenging/Envy (Gal. 5:26).
 - 13) Separation (Matt. 25:32; Acts 15:39).
 - 14) Hating (Titus 3:3).
 - 15) Murder (Rev. 6:4).
 - 16) Unrighteous Giving (Rev. 11:10).
- c. Non-Speaking Positive Uses
- 1) Peace (Mark 9:50; 1 Thess. 5:13^ε).
 - 2) Service (John 13:14; Gal. 5:13).
 - 3) Encouragement (Rom. 1:12; Heb. 3:13^ε).
 - 4) Membership (Rom. 12:5; Eph. 4:25).
 - 5) Caring (1 Cor. 12:25).
 - 6) Bearing Burdens (Gal. 6:2).
 - 7) Preference/Devotion (Rom. 12:10).
 - 8) Like-mindedness (Rom. 12:16; 15:5).
 - 9) Building Up (Rom. 14:19; 1 Thess. 5:11).
 - 10) Acceptance (Rom. 15:7).
 - 11) Patience (1 Cor. 11:33).
 - 12) Tolerance/Forbearance (Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:13).
 - 13) Kindness (Eph. 4:32).
 - 14) Humility/Subjection (Eph. 5:21; Phil. 2:3; 1 Thess. 5:15; 1 Pet. 5:5).
 - 15) Comforting (1 Thess. 4:18; 5:11).
 - 16) Stimulation (Heb. 10:24).
 - 17) Fellowship (1 John 1:7).
 - 18) Love (John 13:34, 35; 15:12, 17; Rom. 13:8; 1 Thess. 3:12; 4:9; 2 Thess. 1:3; 1 Pet. 1:22; 4:8^ε; 1 John 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11, 12; 2 John 5).
- d. Misc. Uses (Luke 12:1; John 13:22).

4. Conclusion

- a. With the clear emphasis on interaction with one another, it is imperative that believers be part of an assembly (Heb. 10:25).
- b. Within the one another passages, the overwhelming emphasis on the mental attitude of love among the brethren gives us guidance as to how we are supposed to function in our daily walk (1 Cor. 16:14).
- c. Fulfilling all of the other imperatives depends upon this mental attitude of **ἀγάπη** love.
- d. God's design is for us to minister to one another, not for the pastor to be the only one ministering to the body of a local church.