

# *The Parchment*

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## *The "One Anothers"*

Recently in SPLIT we talked about what it takes to form a community around Christ. One passage we examined came from Paul's letter to the Philippians where he encourages the Christians there to "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others" (2:3-4). Every time I read those verses I feel a tinge of guilt. In my heart I must acknowledge that my tendency is to look out for myself and put myself first. The amount of time I think about myself and my own situation, versus others and their needs, testifies to this reality. When I listen to Paul these centuries later, I know I am not alone. The next paragraph describes how a believer should be like Christ who humbled Himself to become human like us and died on a criminal's Cross for us. His model is the most complete picture of what it means to think about others—even to sacrifice for others. Jesus' attitude and actions form the complete picture of how Christians should act toward each other. It's "loving your neighbor" in real live action for all to see and emulate.

What Christ did for us is a high calling for us who belong to His body, the church. As members of a body we need each other in many ways including encouragement, accountability, reminders of truth, etc. The Bible teaches us how to relate to each other through a series of statements that include the phrases "one another" or "each other." One author I read recently, Joel Comiskey, describes the importance of how we relate to each other this way: "We need each other. The term in the Bible for 'one another' is a

reciprocal pronoun meaning 'mutual ministry.'" Each believer in the church is indwelt and gifted by the Holy Spirit to "serve the common good" (1 Corinthians 12:7). It's not as important exactly what gifts or talents we might have or not have. Rather, it is the attitude and desire to serve others with what God gives us that truly matters.

As 2010 continues to unfold, I would like to present a new series in *The Parchment* highlighting the various "one anothers" in the Bible. Each one will challenge us to look out for other's interests, to focus on others. In practicing these "one anothers" my prayer is that the love of Christ will permeate our relationships. May we be transformed into the kind of people who could not only think more about others, but even be willing to sacrifice for one another.

*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*

John 13:34-35