

The Parchment

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Which "One Another?"

Today, this Valentine's Day, I would like to launch the "One Another" series in The Parchment by sharing which of the "one anothers" Lori and I appreciate the most in the other. Perhaps this week you can think about what you notice and appreciate in your loved ones and express those to them.

Howard: The "one another" I most appreciate about Lori comes from Colossians 3:13: "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Lori and I learned early on how different we are. I shared recently with my CE class about an incident from our honeymoon. Lori's parents gave us an Entertainment book with coupons for places in Waikiki. I dutifully wanted to go to restaurants which accepted those coupons to save money. Lori, however, thought that we should go where we wanted to go, regardless of whether or not we had a coupon. We ended up arguing in the middle of the street. I became so frustrated I tore the coupon in my hand into little bits of paper and threw the resulting confetti up into the air. If I remember correctly we ate that night at the "Top of Waikiki," a revolving restaurant where you have a 360 degree view. I'm glad we ate there after all, it's a memory we can share together.

In the years since, I know Lori needed to practice "bear with each other" and "forgive each other" with me over and over again. What a reminder of how in living and serving together in the body of Christ we need to do the same.

Lori: The "one another" I think of for Howard comes from Galatians 6:2: "Bear one another's burdens and you will fulfill the law of Christ." I am an adult only child. When my mom died in 2001, I had to make a lot of decisions. My dad and I worked on some of the stuff associated with my mom's passing (e.g., her personal items, burial arrangements, etc.) but when it came to other decisions such as, "Should I continue to live close to my dad?" I was on my own. Howard became like a brother to me and helped me work through some tough issues whether they were physical—like I mentioned above or emotional ones. My grief was prolonged and intense as my mom and I were very close. I wasn't ready to lose her at that time in my life. My children were young and there was a lot that I still wanted to share with my mom. Nonetheless, Howard came alongside me and helped me carry my burdens. I will always be thankful for Howard's presence and willingness to help me through a difficult time in my life.