

## APRIL 24, 2022 – ONE ANOTHER SERIES

### BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER

**“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32**

**REVIEW.** The Lesson began with a reminder that the discourse in the Upper Room, as recorded in John 13 – 17, is the basis for our study of the “one another’s” in the New Testament Scriptures. It revolves around the two factors of Jesus command to love one another and his prayer for unity among his followers

#### LAST WEEK

BUD began with reference to kindness and what it means. Using a definition of “the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate”, he commented on each of those three adjectives as they relate to kindness.

#### FRIENDS

At the last supper together with his disciples, as described in the Gospel of John, chapters 13 – 17, Jesus told his disciples that “because I have disclosed to you everything that I heard from my Father”, they were now his friends. True friends are those bonded together in a common faith in Jesus Christ. We were created for friendship as demonstrated in the Garden of Eden. True friendship demands sacrificial love such as declared by Jesus, in John 15:13, when he told his friends, “greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends”.

#### GENEROSITY

To be generous is to demonstrate a selfless concern for the benefit of others. Philippians 2:3 tells us to “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves”. It involves optimism and idealism, trusting in others, and significant energy.

#### CONSIDERATE

Thoughtfulness’ of the rights and feelings of others is the foundation for being considerate. Again, the Bible teaches us, in Philippians 2:4, “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others”. It means to be polite and thoughtful and mindful and courteous.

#### EPHESIANS 4

RON provided an in-depth discussion of Ephesians 4, with emphasis on verse 32, “be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

#### WALK

He began with an explanation of walk as the manner in which we conduct our lives. To do so as worthy of the calling of God in our lives, with humility.

#### UNITY

Unity is simply oneness. To be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (v 3). To maintain unity requires effort to work at it. We must focus on what unites us, not what divides us.

## **GIFTS**

Paul then goes on to discuss gifts three different times in the passage. The purpose of the gifts is for the work of service and to build up the body of Christ. We must look for opportunities to serve and build one another to maturity.

**Maturity One:** the unity of the faith in knowledge of the Son of God to the stature of the fulness of Christ.

**Maturity Two:** the result here is that we are no longer children, tossed and carried about by every wind of doctrine or trickery or deceit.

**EPHESIANS 4:32** “be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

RON then described what the Apostle was saying in verse 32. The word used for kindness here implies to be profitable or useful to one another. We must be tender hearted, which means to have a strong emotional feeling in the gut. Can we empathize. The mirror neurons in our brain allow us to see through the eyes of one another and to feel what they are feeling along with them. The reference to forgiveness here literally means “to give grace”. In Ron’s words “to refuse to forgive someone is to marinate in your own resentment”. The end result is that the Christian life is about making positive contributions to one another. How are you bringing out the best in others? How could you improve?

## **HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE**

- 1. FIND SOMEONE YOU CAN BE CONCERNED FOR**
- 2. BRUSH OFF YOUR OWN PROBLEMS AND SEE THOSE OF OTHERS**

## **NEXT WEEK -- BE HUMBLE TOWARDS ONE ANOTHER**

**I PETER 5:5**

**EPHESIANS 4:2**