

From Where I Sit . . .

"CARING AND SHARING... THE CARE GROUP WAY"

Christianity is "Other-Person-Centered." We must always be searching for ways in which we can fulfill our "One Another" relationships. God's design that we be a family, members of a body, along with His many other images of what a church relationship is all about suggest to us that this work is most important and one we cannot afford to turn away from.

In John 13:34-35, Jesus suggests that our relationship to one another is a bold testimony of our discipleship: *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."* He's not here suggesting that the only thing required to become a disciple or to be one continuously is just love. That would exclude many other things He taught about each of these aspects of Christianity. He is, however, underscoring that the true strength of His newly established church (family) would be directly proportional to the way we can band together and the feelings that we can maintain for one another. This "oneness" would demonstrate to the world that we are followers of Jesus.

Dear friends, this involves so many day by day involvements that we are to maintain with one another. For example, we are to: *"prefer one another"* (Romans 12:10); *"edify one another"* (Romans 14:19); *"be kind to one another"* (Ephesians 4:32); *"bear one another's burdens"* (Galatians 6:2); *"submit to one another"* (Ephesians 5:21); *"comfort one another"* (I Thess. 4:18); *"be hospitable to one another without grumbling"* (I Pet 4:9 NKJV); *"forgive one another"* (Col. 3:16); *"fellowship one with another"* (1 John 1:7); *"pray for one another"* (James 5:16); *"have the same care for one another"* (1 Cor 12:14). The list goes on in Scripture drawing us into a unit and a unity as the Family of God!

It's easy to love some who we've allowed ourselves to get to know better, and certainly it's easy to love those who love us back, but it's a bit harder to have this *"same care for one another"* if we haven't come to know them and find qualities most lovable. Also, as in any family, there are some who need special attention at special times so that they feel loved and secure. Good parents are particularly tuned in to this need and learn how to spend that one on one time with each child, and with each other. Such a tragedy it would be for one of our children to grow up and leave home feeling that they were never loved as the other children!

Just as we spend time insuring that this does not happen, even so God's family must take time for meeting these same kinds of needs. I'm sure there are many wonderful ways this can be done. At Broad Street through the years, a lot of love has been cultivated. Beginning April 4 we will be searching for new ways to express that love through the use of our Care Groups. Every member of this church is priceless to God, and must be to each one of us! Every member needs a support group to stay in tune with their hearts, their lives, their needs. Every member has a place.

..... Terry Broome

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