



Intro:

Living in Love and Service To the Church

Welcome to session four! Today we will focus on living in love and service to the Church. So far, we have laid a firm foundation for what it looks like to “BE” a disciple. Living in love and service to Christ and our homes gives us a strong witness of faith as we come together with a community of believers to worship our Savior. Healthy and fruitful individuals, along with healthy and fruitful families, build healthy and fruitful churches.

The word “church” comes from the Greek word “ecclesia”, which means “a called out people.” Notice that it is not a building, location, or “organization”, but a people. The Church consists of all those who come to know Jesus as Lord and are baptized into the family of God (Ephesians 2:19). It is also known as the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27) or the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 21:2). Christ has chosen, adopted, and set apart a people for His glory, in which He loves and empowers. Christ’s love for His family, body, and bride never relents though many today have lost their love for the Church.

Christ calls His people together in love and unity for the world to take notice and know that God sent His son to save us all. Finding a community of believers (local church) to commit to, plant in, give to, and grow with is vital to our personal and family’s growth and fruitfulness. Within this community, we have the opportunity to serve and love another, fulfilling many calls of Christ. Finding a local church that you love and cherish is a gift from the Father.

As we plant ourselves into the local church, may we not forget that each local expression is just a small part of the global Church that has been established by God. It takes us all with all our expressions to complete the picture of being the Bride of Christ. The Church is, and forever will be God’s plan A for establishing and advancing the Kingdom of God on Earth through sharing the good news of Jesus with the world. Even when it gets messy because we are all human, the Church is beautiful and worthy of our time, talents, and treasures. Christ’s Church is the greatest organism on the face of the Earth, and we get to be a part of it.

**“Remember, as we are the Body of Christ,
God’s reputation is measured by our unity.”**

Living on Target Pg. 136



Agenda:

01: Pray (Leader) -

Pray for our church, the Church, and for a deepening of our love for one another, unity, and loving the Bride of Christ.

02: Read -

**We've bolded key verses if time is limited

The Church

- **Ephesians 2:19** - members of the household of God
- John 13:34-35 - the world will know you by how you love one another
- John 17:20-23 - that we would be one and the world would know
- **Revelation 5:9-10** - every tribe, tongue, and nation
- Ephesians 2:14-16 - broken down the wall of hostility making peace for all

Community

- **Acts 2:42-27** - The beginning of the church and Biblical community

Communion

- **1 Corinthians 11:17-34** - Institution of the Lord's Supper

Corporate Worship

- **Hebrews 10:23-25** - Spurring one another on and gathering together
- 1 Corinthians 16:20 - Gathering of Love
- Psalms 29:2 - Worship to the Lord
- **Proverbs 3:9-10, 1 Corinthians 16:2** - Giving our tithes and offerings
- Hebrews 10:24-25 - Giving of ourselves to service

Serving Those in Need

- **Matthew 25:31-46**
- James 1:22,27
- **Proverbs 14:31**
- Galatians 6:10

Supporting the Global and Persecuted Church

- **Hebrews 13:3**
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03: Reflect (Leader) -

**Leader, feel free to journey through these all at once then discuss or take them one at a time with a verse, reflections, and a response conversation.

The Church...

- Is the people of God, not a building or location.
- Belongs to Jesus as the head, not man. (Matthew 16:13-18)
- Is the Body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23, 1 Corinthians 12:27, Colossians 1:24)
- Is the Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 21:2)
- Is a community of believers (Romans 12:5)
- Is a the family of God (Ephesians 2:19)
- Is for any and everyone who calls on the name of Jesus (Revelation 5:9-10, Ephesians 2:14-16)
- Will be known by our love and unity (John 17:20-23, John 13:34-35)

5 significant areas to loving and serving the Church:

Biblical Community:

- The early church learned, praised God, prayed, shared meals, and lived relationally in community together. Mostly in their homes and public places because they did not have the luxury of a building as we do today. (Acts 2:42-47)
- We need each other in the battle against the enemy. (2 Corinthians 10: 3-5)
- We can only fulfill and live out the “one anothers” we are called to by living and serving each other. (Attached File)
- We were not created to live alone or in isolation, even from the beginning. (Genesis 1 and 2)
- Community should bring accountability and encouragement to our faith journeys. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Commitment to a group of people is vital for our growth. It's why we value membership. You can't grow without putting down roots.

Communion

- The observance of regular communion, or eucharist, with other believers in remembrance of our Savior is modeled and commanded by Jesus. (Matthew 26:26-30)

Corporate Worship

- Giving a greeting of love to one another
- Giving worship to God together



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- Giving of our tithes and offerings as worship together
 - Giving ourselves to serve one another
 - Receiving His word
 - Note, that of the five opportunities in corporate worship, only one is about receiving. The other four are a challenge for us to give.

Serving those in need

- Over 400 verses about serving those in need
- Starting with the household of God, and then to the world. We are to be known by how we care for and love one another in the Family of God, then by how we love and care for the world.

Supporting the global and persecuted church

- Reminding ourselves that the church didn't start in America, nor is it American. It is global and expansive.
- Our local expression of church is a microcosm of the grander picture of the Church (capital C)
- We must remember not to take our freedoms for granted and to support our church family around the world that is being persecuted for their faith in Jesus.

04: Respond: (All Participants)

Living in love and service to the Church.

Main Points:

- The Church is the people of God not the building or location.
- The Church is to be loved, served, and cherished as Christ loves us.
- The Church is set apart to be a shining example of Christ to a world that is in desperate need of transformational love.
- The Church exists to show the world how to love one another, live in community, live for Christ, serve the needy and advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Response Questions:

- Why do you go to church?
- How would you describe your experience with the local church or churches from your past and present?
 - How would you describe your love for Christ's Church?
- Is there any part of the church being for all people that challenges you?



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- Are there any prejudices or stereotypes that need to be addressed or asked for forgiveness?
 - What changes may be necessary to bring you into a loving relationship with the Church?
 - What does Biblical community look like?
 - Are you currently living in biblical community with other believers?
 - Who are you praying for? Who is praying for you?
 - Is it important to become a member of a local church? Why do you think people hesitate to become members?
 - Are you serving the church in any capacity right now? Do you desire to do so?
 - What could that look like?
 - What does regular participation in communion look like for you?
 - Do you have compassion for the poor and persecuted?
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05: The Rhythm of Reconciliation

Be Reconciled to God

- Set up a quiet place in your home to spend with God. Make a new habit of meeting with Him daily during this workshop..
- In your time with God, ask Him to show you areas where you are not reconciled to Him. The “asking” part is important. After you ask then wait and listen for His response. Journal that response in the reconciliation session at the end of this workbook.

Pursue Reconciliation with Others:

- In your time with God, ask Him to show you the relationships in your life that need to be reconciled.
- Think of the places you are serving or leading in the church. Do you see opportunities to better reflect Christ’s unity in those areas.



06: React (All Participants)

- Find a life group or group of friends/family to begin walking through life and scripture together
 - Sign up to join a serve team or find an organization to lend your time to
 - Evaluate the frequency of your personal taking of Communion
 - Evaluate your own church attendance and commitment to being with the saints
 - Pray this week for our brothers and sisters around the world that are being persecuted. (VOM.org, prayercast.com, joshuaproject.net)
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07: Read Ahead

- Living on Target Chapter 6: Living in Love and Service to the World
 - Workbook Session 5: Living in Love and Service to the World
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References:

Ephesians 2:19 -

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

John 13:34-35 -

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 17:20-23 -

“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Revelation 5:9-10 -

And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every



tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

Ephesians 2:14-16 -

For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

Acts 2:42-47 -

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe[a] came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

1 Corinthians 11:17-34 -

But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person



examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined[f] so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another— if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home—so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. About the other things I will give directions when I come.

Hebrews 10:23-25 -

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

1 Corinthians 16:2 -

On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

Psalms 29:2 -

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

Proverbs 3:9-10 -

*Honor the LORD with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine.*

Hebrews 10:24-25 -

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Matthew 25:31-46 -

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry



and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

James 1:22,27 -

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Proverbs 14:31 -

Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.

Galatians 6:10 -

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Hebrews 13:3 -

Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.

The “One Another” Passages



The phrase "one another" is derived from the Greek word *allelon* which means "one another, each other; mutually, reciprocally." It occurs 100 times in the New Testament. Approximately 59 of those occurrences are specific commands teaching us how (and how not) to relate to one another. Obedience to those commands is imperative. It forms the basis for all true Christian community, and has a direct impact on our witness to the world (John 13:35). In addition to *allelon*, the Bible uses other words and phrases to instruct us how to relate to others. With that in mind, the following list is not exhaustive, and primarily focuses on using *allelon*.

Positive Commands

- Love one another (John 13:34 - This command occurs at least 16 times)
- Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)
- Honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12:10)
- Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)
- Build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Be like minded towards one another (Romans 15:5)
- Accept one another (Romans 15:7)
- Admonish one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16) Greet one another (Romans 16:16)
- Care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)
- Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
- Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)
- Be patient with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
- Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15, 25)
- Be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
- Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19)
- Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5)
- Consider others better than yourselves (Philippians 2:3)
- Look to the interests of one another (Philippians 2:4)
- Bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)
- Teach one another (Colossians 3:16)
- Comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
- Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Exhort one another (Hebrews 3:13)
- Stir up [provoke, stimulate] one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24)
- Show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)



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- Employ the gifts that God has given us for the benefit of one another (1 Peter 4:10)
 - Clothe yourselves with humility towards one another (1 Peter 5:5)
 - Pray for one another (James 5:16)
 - Confess your faults to one another (James 5:16)

Negative Commands (how not to treat one another)

- Do not lie to one another (Colossians 3:9)
- Stop passing judgment on one another (Romans 14:13)
- If you keep on biting and devouring each other...you'll be destroyed by each other (Galatians 5:15)
- Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other (Galatians 5:26)
- Do not slander one another (James 4:11)
- Don't grumble against each other (James 5:9)
- We do all this because we are in a real sense "members of one another" (Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:25).