

HOW TO TREAT ONE ANOTHER

By Keith Greer

In your New Testament the phrase "one another" can be found 34 times. So many of our brethren are in congregations which seem to do nothing but bicker, fuss, and fight among themselves. If the Lord's church is to move forward, the church must work together and be at peace. Making some applications, "one another" can help encourage and maintain that peace.

Edify one another. "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers." {Ephesians 4:29} The word edify means "to build up or strengthen." I need to always be concerned how what I say or do might affect others. Focus on building up and not tearing down.

Be Kind to One Another. "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." {Ephesians 4:32} We need to be warm and friendly to one another. Strive to be thoughtful instead of rude and unkind.

Prefer One Another. "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another." {Romans 12:10} In our society most people prefer self-what I want, my desires and things my way. We need to have a spirit of humility and place other people's concerns above our own. Philippians 2:2-5.

Using Hospitality Toward One to Another. "Be hospitable to one another without grumbling." {1 Peter 4:9} Hospitality means "lovers of strangers." It is important that we get together with one another outside the walls of the church building. Why? To grow closer in love and affection towards each other. This promotes love, unity, and can encourage the weak members. When is the last time you had some of your brethren in your home? If you can't remember-it's been too long!

Church family is a very special and important relationship. Will we always say and do the right thing? Probably not, but we can rise above it. Why not start today? ***