

# The Communion of Saints

## Delighting in God Together in 2025

### 1-Introduction

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Church January 05, 2025

#### Hebrews 10:23-25

**23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;**

**24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.**

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Now to begin the new year of 2025- I want to take a short “Vacation” from our verse-by-verse “Journey” through the **Gospel of Matthew** and examine just how we all may “*Delight in God Together*” in the year of our Lord, 2025.

In the Passage that Brother Vern just read to us- there is one word and one phrase I would like for us to consider:

- **Us**
- **One Another**

Obviously, the unknown Writer of **Hebrews** had a very specific Group in mind as God the Holy Spirit “moved” (**2Peter 1:21**) on him to write this inspired Book- because he uses the word, “**US**” 32 different times in 26 verses in just **Hebrews** alone. And after going verse-by-verse through this magnificent Book several years ago<sup>1</sup>- we found that the “**US**” as well as the “**ONE ANOTHER**” to which the writer addresses these Statements are- *in Context*- the saved people of that small Church that was located somewhere within the modern Nation of Turkey around 68AD. That’s the correct Context.

But the Application of this- is that the Statements made here apply to **ALL** the saved people in **EVERY** Church- throughout **ALL** Time. So, this is a “*Universal Truth*” to **ALL** Believers- **EVERYWHERE**- and **FOREVER!**

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<sup>1</sup> June 2006- October 2008

And what the unknown Writer is doing by using these two words is to “establish” and “develop” what is called, “*Community*” or “*Communion*” among the individual “*Living Stones*” of redeemed human beings that make up the Christian Church (**1Peter 2:5**).

And this goes back to what the Apostle Paul was led to write, for example, in **Romans 12:4&5**, that says,

**4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,**

**5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.**

... and in **1Corinthians 12:12&13**, he said,

**12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.**

**13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.**

In **1Corinthians 12:20**, he said,

**But now there are many members, but one body.**

... and in **Ephesians 4:4-6** he said,

**4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;**

**5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,**

**6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.**

... and these verses repeatedly use a common phrase, “*One Body*”- which has to do with developing what the early Church called, the “*Communion of Saints*”.

Now the Apostles’ Creed is one of the *earliest* Christian “*Summary Statements*” (Creeds) of “*Essential Truth*” that exists. And even though the Apostles themselves did NOT write this Creed- it served the Church well for many Centuries- until a more *precise* Creed was developed that dealt with more Issues of “*Essential Truth*”. And at the End of this Creed- we read these words:

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The holy catholic Church,

**The Communion of Saints,  
The Forgiveness of Sins,  
The Resurrection of the Body,  
And the Life of the World to come.**

So, what did the early Church Fathers *mean* when they discussed the “*Communion of Saints*”? In what Sense or in what Way are the many hundreds of millions of genuine Believers- who were raised in different Cultures; who speak different Languages; who have developed different Customs; and who live in many nations of the World- “**One Body**”? It is obviously NOT true to say that every Believer worships God by being *physically connected* with all other Believers. We don’t. Time and Distance simply won’t permit that.

But as we discuss this “Problem”- we need to first acknowledge that the Reason the Christian Church contains Believers from all over this Planet- is because the Gospel was heralded and has triumphed over Unbelief among those many Believers- who live in the many Nations of the World. So, this is really NOT a Problem after all- but a great Success Story that should be celebrated! The Gospel wins!

So, while some genuine Believers live in Gulfport, Mississippi, others- who believe in Jesus just as genuinely- live in Europe; and in Africa; and Korea; and China; and India; and Syria; and England. And some genuine Believers actually live in a “*third-world*” Country called, “*California*”. So, in the sense of “*literal Physicality*”- Christians are spread all over the world- which, as I said, is a good thing.

But then in what Sense do we *believe in*; and in what Sense do we actually *have* the “*Communion of Saints*”? This is an Example, my Friends, of what I mean when I tell you that we must guard our hearts against saying we believe in something that we really don’t know anything about. Sadly, as I was preparing for this Sermon Series- over the last several months- I have talked to dozens of people- all of whom say they’re saved- many of whom recite the Apostles’ Creed every Lord’s Day. And yet NONE of them knew what the phrase, the “*Communion of Saints*” means. NONE of them have ever asked their Leaders what it means; and NONE of them have ever heard anyone preach or teach on that Issue or read any Information about it- the entire Time they have been in that Church! Beloved, that is Unconscionable! We are NOT parrots- who simply repeat what other Believers have written; and we are NOT bobble-head statues, who nod our Heads in Agreement with things we don’t understand. And so, to keep the people of the Covenant of Peace Church from being Guilty of this Crime- I am developing a “white-paper Teaching” that will go over every Phrase of every Creed and explain what the men who wrote it meant.

But if the “*Communion of Saints*” doesn’t mean that ALL Believers worship God in the SAME physical Location- then what does it mean?

Well, first of all, it means that ALL genuine Believers belong to the very SAME Church that Jesus established; that He is ongoingly building; and over which, He alone, is Head. And that is why the Nicene Creed says something like,

**I believe in ONE, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.**

... where the “*one*” here refers to that “**one Body**” we saw earlier.

So, Jesus only set up ONE SINGLE Church- and that ONE SINGLE Church belongs to Him! He alone paid for it with His Blood! And ALL genuine Believers belong to that “one Body”- that one Church.

But what is it- *exactly*- that causes all of those genuine Believers, to actually *belong* to that “one single Church” that Jesus created? Because they *say so*? Because they *want it to be true*? Because that’s what the Sign over their front door says?

No, what causes all of those genuine Believers to belong to that one, single Church that Jesus *created*; that He is *continuing to build*; and over which *He alone is Head* is four things:

1. They are in spiritual/mystical “*Union with Jesus*” by having *personally* experienced the Miracle of the New Birth; by having been Justified by Faith alone; and by having been “Adopted”.
2. This inward spiritual/mystical “*Union*” has been outwardly signified through water Baptism (by Immersion)
3. They have been; they are now; and they will *continue* to be taught the Truth of Scripture
4. They have personally Believed the Truth of Scripture; they Believe that Truth now; and they will *continue* to believe what Scripture teaches

Now if all that is true about an individual- then we MUST move on to the next Step and also say, “*Since the Believer is in ‘Union with Christ’- he is also in Union with ALL of those who are also in Union with Christ!*” So, the genuinely born-again individual is in “*Union with Christ*” AND in “*Union with ALL of Christ’s Church*”!

The Apostle Paul taught that the genuine Believer is “**in Christ**” around 160 Times in the New Testament. So, that phrase is used *repeatedly* every few verses in all of his Writings. For example, **1Corinthians 12:13** says,

**For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.**

Now, of course, we CANNOT *physically* or *literally* dwell inside of the Man-Jesus Christ. We also CANNOT *literally* or *physically* “**drink**” of the Holy Spirit. So, this is a “spiritual Union” or a “mystical Union”.

And that is why the Holy Bible ~~teaches~~teaches that the “outward Sign” that an individual has *already* experienced the Miracle of the New Birth; has *already* been Justified; and has *already* been Adopted; and is now living in this spiritual/mystical “*Union with Jesus Christ and His Church*”- is the Sacrament of Baptism.<sup>2</sup>

So, the “*Communion of Saints*” then is that- by God’s Grace and to God’s Glory- we have been *personally* placed in “*Union with Jesus Christ*”; we are in “*Right Fellowship*” with His Church; and we are joined to that “*One Body*” with all of the other genuine Believers. And all of that is the Result of us:

1. Having *already* Believed
2. Believing *right now*
3. *Continuing* to Believe

... and that Desire and Ability to Believe was given to us “BY” the Grace of God; and it was personally appropriated to us as individuals “THROUGH” the Gift of saving Faith.

So, that is HOW we enter into this “*Union with Christ*”. But it is *also* HOW we are joined to the one single Church (One Body) that Jesus created; that He is *ongoingly* building; and over which He alone is Head, And it is *also* HOW we now live and move and have our Being in the “*Communion of Saints*”.

Another Way of saying this is that as we have now been united with our Lord Christ- we have also been united with ALL of those who have also been united with Him. So, it is NOT simply that we are now in the Church of Jesus and that’s it. We are now also “*in Communion*” with ALL of the other genuine Believers throughout the entire World who are also in the Church of Jesus! So, even as it is true that we are connected forever with Christ and with His Church- what they actually means is that we are forever connected to ALL of the other people- who have also become connected with Christ- because the Church IS the people.

But that means that even as it is true that genuine Believers CANNOT be separated from Christ- it is equally true that we also CANNOT be separated from

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<sup>2</sup> The term, “*Spiritual/Mystical*” is used to describe this Union because it is said to transcend earthly Relationships in its Intimacy, Influence, and Consequences. And while it is true that some people are baptized who should *not* be- either because those people are not genuinely born again or because the local Church has not been able to weed out false Converts- it is also true that the Way that God has ordained that our Union with Christ is *made visible*- is through Baptism.

the people that God has sovereignly placed in His Church through Salvation. And that has to do with the “*one Body*” Concept that we see in the Bible and what the early Fathers of the Church meant about the “*Communion of Saints*”.

So, as genuine Believers, who have been graciously and sovereignly, and miraculously, and eternally positioned in the Church of the First Born- we have also been graciously and sovereignly, and miraculously, and eternally positioned with each other. So, we do NOT walk alone. We do NOT grow in Grace alone. We do NOT live out our Faith alone. We do NOT bear godly Fruit alone. And we do NOT overcome Temptation and continue to hope in God alone. We have “Communion”; we are “one Body” and we NEED each other.

There is both a “vertical Communion or Union” as well as a “horizontal Communion or Union”. By God’s Grace and to God’s Glory- ALL genuine Believers now have

- Union with Christ (Vertical)
- Union with “one another” (Horizontal)

But as great as this is- we CANNOT; and we MUST NOT stop there. Because we are not only united with ALL of the Saints, who worship God in our own local Body; we are not only united with ALL of the Saints who live in many of the Nations of the World- but we are also united with ALL of the Saints- who have EVER lived; who are now *physically* dead; and whose redeemed souls now surround the Throne of God awaiting the “**Redemption of their Bodies**” (**Romans 8:23**)!

Now we DON’T communicate with the Dead; and we certainly DON’T pray to dead Saints- asking for their Help; or their Guidance; or their Protection because **1 Timothy 2:5** says,

**For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,**

The Scriptures are crystal clear about this, dear Friends- Jesus and Jesus ALONE is the one, single Mediator between ALL Believers and the one, true, and living God. So, for *anyone* to pray to a dead Saint- asking for their Help; Guidance; or Protection is to *pervert* the Truth about the “*Communion of the Saints*” beyond all reasonable Recognition.

And yet, we ARE *connected* to them in the very SAME “*Union with Christ and His Church*”- because there is only ONE Church! And so, we worship the SAME God as they did. We believe the SAME Truths they did. We engage in the SAME Sacraments as they did. And we are part of the SAME Church as they

are- right now! And when we die; and join them in Heaven- we will be *physically* and *literally* united with them in our glorified Bodies!

And to those people, who had already experienced the Miracle of the New Birth in **Hebrews 10:23-25**- the unknown Writer of **Hebrews** gave three Commands:

1. **Hold fast (v. 23)**
2. **Consider (v. 24)**

... and there was one thing that the writer wanted those saved people to “**Hold Fast**” to:

**Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering**

... and there were two things that the Writer wanted those already born -again people to “**Consider**”:

1. **Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds**
2. [Let us consider how to] **encourag(e) ing one another**

... and all three of these things are accomplished- they are “made possible” based on three other Truths being true- that the unknown writer of **Hebrews** wants ALL Believers to know; understand; believe in; and hope in:

1. **... for He who promised is faithful**
2. **... not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some**
3. **... and all the more as you see the day drawing near**

... where the phrase, “**the day**” has to do with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus to this earth.

So, this refers to the “*ever-escalating*”; “*ever-growing*”; and “*ever-victorious*” Effect that the Christian Church has on the sinful World. Because without Believers being here- the entire lost World is doomed!

My Friends, it is wholly unbiblical for Christians to *systematically* withdraw from the lost and unsaved World- simply because they are Evil and Wicked. Because without the loving and powerful and truthful Presence of the Church on the earth- NOBODY would be saved. And that includes those God chose to save from before the Foundation of the world. The one, single Method God has established to save ALL that He has chosen- is by or through the continual; ongoing; full; and faithful “*Heralding*” of the Gospel! And because it IS God’s Will to save ALL of His elect- He will *guarantee* that His Church will remain on the earth until ALL of those elected Sinners have heard the Gospel; believe the Gospel; and are saved!

Beloved, we must always keep in mind that we have NOT been called to be “Safe”; “Secure”; or “Comfortable” in this Life. We have been called to be “Faithful”; “Fruitful”; and “Busy” in the “*already- established*” and “*already-articulated*” Work and Will of the Lord.

So, we, as the Church of Jesus- should gather together “*all the more*” as we see the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming drawing closer. And the offshoot from that- is that we will pray; and study the Bible; and fellowship; and fast; and herald the Gospel; and call Sinners to Repentance; and pursue Holiness; and encourage one- another; and hate our Sin; refuse to compromise; and hope in God- “*all the more*” as well.

And we will do all of this because we are saved- yes. But we will also do all of this because we are “*united*” with the Lord Jesus Christ AND because we are “*united*” with EVERY genuine Member of Christ’s Church. So, we are in “*Communion*” together with ALL of the genuine Believers all over the entire World as well as those who now are rejoicing in Heaven! And that is the basis behind ALL of the many “*One-Another*” Passages that we can find in the Bible- *primarily* in the New Testament.

Now there is on more piece of background Information that we need to know- before we get into the exposition of this Passage. And that has to do with the fourth Step of Church Discipline. Please read **Matthew 18:15-17:**

**15 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.**

**16 But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.**

**17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.**

Now I have written an entire Study on the Issue of “*Church Discipline*”. But suffice it to say that it is precisely because we are in “*Communion*” with each other as well as with Jesus that genuine Believers no longer have the Inclination nor the Right to “*do what is Right in their own eyes*”. So, a genuine Believer doesn’t want to sin against God; and God doesn’t want them to live in blatant; ongoing; public; notorious; and unrepentant Sin.

So, when a genuine Believer gets caught up in Sin- other individual Believers should go to that Brother or Sister- *privately*- and *compel* them to turn away from that Sin; and to joyfully submit themselves to the Authority of Scripture. And if they do that- all Heaven rejoices!



But if they refuse to repent- the other Believer MUST then go to Step 2 and get another Brother or Sister and confront the sinning Member again. And if that Member repents- then all is well. But if he refuses- then we MUST go to Step 3.

And Jesus said at the Beginning of verse 17 that those involved in this Situation MUST **“tell the Church”**. So, the sinning Member’s name as well as the Sin he is involved in; and the fact that, after repeated attempts at Reconciliation- he refuses to repent- is publicly acknowledged to the entire local Assembly. And the Goal here is that ALL of the other Members go to the sinning Member and compel him to turn away from his Sin; and submit himself to the Authority of Scripture; and the loving counsel and “shepherding” of the Elders.

And if the sinning Member repents- we all rejoice that God has rescued a Covenant Brother or Sister. But if he still refuses- Jesus Christ Himself said,

**... if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector**

Now as I have told you in other Sermons- the Reason Jesus said to treat the unrepentant Member as a “Gentile” is because- from his refusal to repent- he is acting as though he has never been exposed to God’s Law and is acting as though he is an Unbeliever. And the Reason Jesus said to treat him as a “tax-Collector” is because he is acting as a Traitor to the “people of God” (the Church); and is behaving in a Way that is detrimental to the Cause of Jesus Christ.

Now this fourth Step is what is called, *“Ex-Communication”*. Because the unrepentant Member is being cast forth OUT FROM the *“Communion of the Saints”* and is now being **“delivered to satan for the Destruction of his Flesh- and so that [he would repent and] his spirit may be saved [rescued] in the day of the Lord Jesus (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming).”** And this is what Paul was talking about when he wrote **1Corinthians 5:**

**1 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife.**

**2 You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.**

**3 For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present.**

**4 In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus,**

**5 I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.**

**6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?**

**7 Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.**

**8 Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**

**9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people;**

**10 I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world.**

**11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one.**

**12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church?**

**13 But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.**

Now the Reason the sinning Member is “**delivered to Satan for the destruction of his flesh**” is because by his refusal to repent- that individual is no longer under the Protection nor the Blessings of the Church- the “*Communion of the Saints*” and has now been “*forced out*” (Ex) of that “*holy Communion*”. And because he *refuses* to act like he has experienced the Miracle of the New Birth- he is now “*on his own*” and alone in the world; and is now a “**vagrant**” and a **wanderer on the earth**” just like Cain (**Genesis 4:12**) until he repents.

Now through the years, I have been asked, “*What Right do you have to treat people like this?*” And my Answer is always the same. “*My Right and Authority to forcefully remove a sinning Member of the Church- who refuses to repent- from the involvement and the participation of the Communion of Saints is **Matthew 18:15-17** and the ‘red-letter Words’ of the Lord Christ Himself!*”

But as we ponder this- it might be helpful to remember that I didn’t write the Bible, dear Friends. And I had NOTHING to do with what Jesus Himself *commanded* the Leaders of the Church- that He bought and paid for with His own Blood- to do. But I believe the Bible to be true. And I believe that since Jesus owns the Church outright- that as an “Under-shepherd” I ALWAYS should obey what my Lord and Savior clearly wants done. Because I believe that Jesus loves people MORE than anyone else. And I believe that Jesus wants souls saved MORE than anyone else. And I don’t believe that anyone else is as spiritual or as loving or as

godly as Jesus is- and Jesus said to do this. And THAT is my Right and my Authority.

But in Reality- their Question is the *wrong* Question. The correct Question is, “*What Right does anyone, who says they’re saved, have- to engage in blatant; ongoing; public; notorious; and unrepentant Sin and then refuse to repent when confronted?*” Because it is the Miracle of the New Birth that brings about the *radical* and *total* Transformation of the human Nature. So, genuinely saved people LOVE to humble themselves to the Authority of Scripture. Genuinely saved people LOVE to be in “right Standing” with God. And genuinely saved people CANNOT stand to be at odds with the Owner and Creator of the Universe. So, by their *refusal* to repent- the sinning Member is acting as though he’s NOT really saved at all.

Now the reason I brought this up is because the fact that Jesus *commanded* that unrepentant Sinners CAN and SHOULD BE *forcefully* removed from the “*Communion of Saints*” proves that there is a “*Communion of Saints*” that exists; and that this “*Communion*” is glorious and beautiful and important and profitable to be a part of; and it is also terrible and frightening and dangerous to be removed from.

So, ALL saved people are to “**hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering**” BECAUSE (for) “**He who promised is faithful**”. And we are to “**consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds**” BY “**not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some**”. And we are to consider that the Basis as to WHY we are to “**encourage one another**” is “**as you see the day drawing near**”.

Now it is my own personal Conviction that if a person is actually striving to obey the Bible- that person can talk about it. Because to obey what the Bible commands- *requires* that we *start* doing very specific things and, at the same time, we *stop* doing other very specific things. And if a person is doing that- then he can talk about it. He can share his Thoughts about it to others. He can encourage and strengthen his Brothers and Sisters based on what God has showed him about that Issue. And that is *exactly* what the unknown Writer of **Hebrews** had in mind when God the Holy Spirit “moved” on him to write this Passage.

So, for Example, if a person is actually “Considering” HOW to “**stimulate one another to love and good deeds**”- he can talk about the Prayers he has prayed; the Things he started and stopped; and the Methods and Ways he has developed in pursuit of obeying this Command. And the net- Result of all his “Considering” will be that he will be faithfully “stimulating” his Covenant Brothers and Sisters in Ways they can adopt- so they will be MORE Loving; and MORE involved in MORE Good Deeds.

But we simply CANNOT do this from a Distance. The Bible says we MUST be “gathered together” in order to do what is said here. And THAT is why we must NOT “*forsake our assembling together*”.

Now in our day there is a terrible, sinful, and unbiblical Concept that has taken hold of modern America. And it is the Concept of “*Individualism*”. And this unbiblical and sinful Concept is very attractive and very deceptive. And it is the natural derivative of the false Teaching that seeks to glorify and even deify Man.

The Concept of Individualism says, “*I am better off by myself. I don’t need anyone else because I am the Captain of my own Ship and I am the Master of my own Destiny*”. And Individualism is seen when a person, who sits in his Mother’s Basement and plays with a Computer all day, can feel Good about himself because on Facebook he has 2,500 “friends” when in Reality- he has none.

But what is even worse is when the Sin of Individualism manifests itself in the Church. For example, a person can attend the Church Services- hear the Messages- and even believe them. And yet, if that person does not become *intimately* aware; and a part of the Lives of the people of that Church- he is still NOT obeying the Commands of Scripture. Because being “*one Body*” is NOT a slogan or a bumper sticker. It MUST be Reality.

The “name of the game” in the New Covenant Church is NOT “*Individualism*”- but “*Conformity*” and “*Communion*”. We are to be *ongoingly* “*Conformed*” to the Image of Jesus Christ (**Romans 8:29**) and we are to live and operate in “*Community*” with each other.

So, the Goal of Salvation is NOT to be *unique*; or to be *different*; or to develop some “*new spin on old Truth*”. The Goal is NOT to be a “*spiritual Entrepreneur*”- but to...

**... contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. (Jude 3)**

... and that is why John Stott said,

“Holiness is not a mystical condition experienced in relation to God but in isolation from human beings. You cannot be good in a vacuum, but only in the real world of people”<sup>3</sup>

True, biblical Holiness may begin between God and the individual soul, but it finds full Expression in “*Community*”- attached to other people- other wonderful, glorious, frustrating, and sometimes offensive *people*. The Church. The

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<sup>3</sup> John Stott; *The Message of Ephesians*; page 184

Communion of Saints. And that is why time and time again- the New Testament describes the authentically holy Life using two simple words: “*one another.*”

We must always remember that Jesus died for His people- His sheep. And that’s why, over fifty times, Jesus and the Apostles told us to feel; or say; or do something to “*one another.*” So, we are told to:

- Care for one another
- Bear with one another
- Honor one another
- Sing to one another
- Do good to one another
- Forgive one another

... and all of that is then connected to that one, single, grand, glorious, majestic, overarching, most- important; and most-repeated “*one-another*”- the Command that “**binds everything together in perfect harmony**” (Colossians 3:14):

**“Love one another.”**

... which is the *unarguable* Proof that we actually HAVE personally experienced the Miracle of the new Birth; that we actually HAVE been forgiven and made Righteous; that we actually HAVE been adopted; that we actually HAVE entered into this “*Union with Christ*”; that we actually HAVE become a part of the “*Union with Christ’s Church*”; and that we ARE NOW- right now and forever- in the “*Communion of Saints*”!

I tell you that this is really going to be an amazing Journey through all the “*one-another*” Passages of the Bible. And I pray that God will help us all.

Amen. Let’s pray.

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