

Life on the Vine
Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit in Christian Community

Conclusion: **Cultivating Community**

How do we cultivate community within the body of believers?

- Cultivating community takes authenticity. (1 John 1.7-8; James 5.16)
What is authenticity? What does it mean to be authentic? What is required to be authentic? Why is it important? Why is it necessary for real fellowship?

- Cultivating community takes mutuality. Mutuality is the art of giving and receiving. (1 Corinthians 12.25; Romans 1.12, 12.10, 14.19)
What is mutuality? Why is it important? Why is it necessary for real fellowship?

- Cultivating community takes sympathy. Standing with someone in the good and the bad. (Colossians 3.12; Philippians 3.10; Hebrews 10.33-34; Galatians 6.2; Job 6.14)
What is sympathy? What does it mean to be sympathetic? Why is it important? Why is it necessary for real fellowship?

- Cultivating community takes mercy. Fellowship is a place of grace. (2 Corinthians 2.7; Colossians 3.13)
What is mercy? What does it mean to be merciful? What is required to be merciful? Why is it important? Why is it necessary for real fellowship?

- Cultivating community takes honesty. (Ephesians 4.15, 25; Proverbs 24.26, 28.23; Galatians 6.1-2; Ecclesiastes 8.6; 1 Timothy 5.1-2; 1 Corinthians 5.3-12)
What is honesty? What does it mean to be honest? What is required to be honest? Why is it important? Why is it necessary for real fellowship?

- Cultivating community takes humility. Humility is the oil that smooths and soothes. (1 Peter 5.5; Romans 12.16; Philippians 2.3-4)
What is humility? What does it mean to be humble? What is required to be humble? Why is it important? Why is it necessary for real fellowship?
- Cultivating community takes courtesy. (Romans 12.10, 15.12; Titus 3.2)
What is courtesy? What does it mean to be courteous? Why is it important? Why is it necessary for real fellowship?
- Cultivating community takes confidentiality. (Proverbs 16.28; Titus 3.10)
What is confidentiality? What does it mean to be confidential? Why is it important? Why is it necessary for real fellowship?
- Cultivating community takes frequency and regular contact. (Hebrews 10.25; Acts 2.46)
What is frequency? Why is it important? Why is it necessary for real fellowship?

Appendix A
One Another: Relationships in the Body of Christ
All verses are in NAS

Love

JOH 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

JOH 13:35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

JOH 15:12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

JOH 15:17 "This I command you, that you love one another.

ROM 13:8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled {the} law.

1TH 3:12 and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all men, just as we also {do} for you;

1TH 4:9 Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for {anyone} to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

2TH 1:3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is {only} fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows {ever} greater;

1PE 1:22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

1PE 4:8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

1JO 3:11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;

1JO 3:23 And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

1JO 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1JO 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1JO 4:12 No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

2JO 1:5 And now I ask you, lady, not as writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another.

Encourage and Comfort

1TH 4:18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1TH 5:11 Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

HEB 3:13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is {still} called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

HEB 10:24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

HEB 10:25 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.

Teaching, Speaking and Admonishing

ROM 15:14 And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able also to admonish one another.

EPH 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

COL 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms {and} hymns {and} spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Greeting

ROM 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

1CO 16:20 All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

2CO 13:12 Greet one another with a holy kiss.

1PE 5:14 Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace be to you all who are in Christ.

Unity, Servant Attitude, Humility

MAR 9:50 "Salt is good; but if the salt becomes unsalty, with what will you make it salty {again}? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

1CO 6:7 Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?

ROM 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

ROM 12:16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

ROM 14:13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this-- not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

ROM 14:19 So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

ROM 15:5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus;

ROM 15:7 Wherefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.

1CO 11:33 So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

1CO 12:24But God has {so}composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that {member} which lacked,

1CO 12:25 that there should be no division in the body, but {that} the members should have the same care for one another.

GAL 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only {do} not {turn} your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

GAL 5:15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care lest you be consumed by one another.

GAL 5:26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

EPH 4:2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love,

EPH 4:32 And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

EPH 5:21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

PHI 2:3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;

COL 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

1TH 5:13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.

1TH 5:15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all men.

1PE 4:9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

1PE 4:10 As each one has received a {special} gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1PE 5:5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for \God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble\.

1JO 1:7 but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Speaking truth, Not Speaking Evil

EPH 4:25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, \speak truth, each one\ {of you,} \with his neighbor,\ for we are members of one another.

COL 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its {evil} practices,

JAM 4:11 Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother, or judges his brother, speaks against the law, and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge {of it.}

JAM 5:9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

Confession of Sin and Prayer

JAM 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

Marriage Relationship

1CO 7:5 Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again lest Satan tempt you because of your lack of self-control.