



Trust from “One anothering”

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“Love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

~~ John 13:34

We are in a time of constant change, which in turn is pushing us into necessary transformations, whether we want to transform or not. In a recent series of webinars, Tod Bolsinger reminded us that “There is no transformation without trust.” Trust can be challenging these days, tho. There is a widespread crisis of lack of trust in institutions, especially in the church. So how do we go about building trust? I suggest through “one anothering”.

Years ago, a clergy friend said something along these lines: “In the Bible, we are never instructed to trust one another. Nor are we told to be friends with one another. But we are commanded to love one another.” This kind of love is not about Valentines, roses, and romance. And contrary to a common misconception, love takes work. This is not an easy task we are called to nor is it one we ever do perfectly. Before commanding love, tho, Jesus *demonstrated* love by getting down on his knees and washing his friends’ feet. The action came before the word so we could see how it is to be done.

To expand on what Jesus’ love looks like, I searched thru the Bible for all the ways we are to be “one another.” Echoing Jesus are many exhortations to love one another. Similarly, we are to be devoted to one another, to be kind and compassionate to one another, to show mercy and compassion to one another, to spur one another on toward love and good deeds, and repeatedly instructed to greet one another with a holy kiss. Post pandemic, feel free to replace that holy kiss with a holy handshake or holy fist bump.

Our love for one another is expressed in other means, too. We are to accept one another; bear with one another; submit to one another; honor one another; serve one another; forgive one another. Encouragement gets mentioned even more. Life was hard in the first century and it is hard today, so we could use all the encouragement we can get! Love others by being an encourager. You can also do so by offering hospitality; clothing yourselves with humility; and teaching, instructing, and admonishing.

More challenging in our times is to live in harmony with one another. To agree and to have the same mindset as Christ Jesus doesn’t come naturally to us. We must practice it. In doing so, we come to be in fellowship with one another. These efforts can be aided by those actions we are not to do to one another: stop passing judgment, do not slander, do not deceive; and don’t grumble against one another.

I believe that if we take on some of these ways of one anothering, particularly showing love, trust will build over time. One anothering allows us to see Christ in each other, and he is one we can surely trust.

Grace and Peace.

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