The Transforming Power of DISCIPLESHIP

of imiracles, are they? to an thave gets with tongues, do then not speak with tongues, do then not speak with thouses, do the not sinterpret, do they? It is notly desire the greater who nestly desire the greater who aby the one Spirit, to and to another the reflecting of a min and to another sprophecy, and to another sprophecy and to another statisting askinds of spirits, and to act another various akinds of tongues, and to accompany to their the and the same Spirit works to the another the same spirits to each all these things, adjustibuting to each all these things, adjustibuting to And I show you a sulf to tent way. The Excellence of Love The Excellence of Love

13 If I speak with the *longer of the love all these things, adistributing to each one individually just as He wills.

12. For even as the body is one and **Transformed** 12. For even *as the body is one and yet has many members, of the body though they are members of the body though they are have sall faith, so as to remove have sall faith, so as to leave, I am tains, but do not have love, I am tains, And II I sgive all my person, and II I demonstrated the poor, and II I demonstrated the purped, but do not body to be burned, but do not body to be sured. members of the body, though they are many, are one body, bso also is Christ.

13 For taby one Spirit we were all the body whether blews or tized into one body. By The tized into one Spirit we were all bap tized into one body, whether blews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and will were all made to cdrink one member.

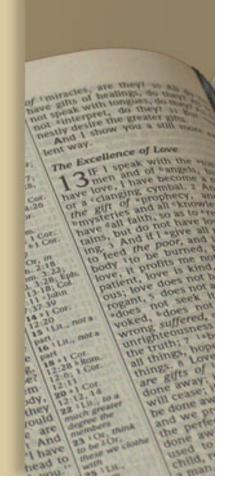
14 For the body is not one member. were all made to cdrink of one Spirit.

14 For the body is not one member.

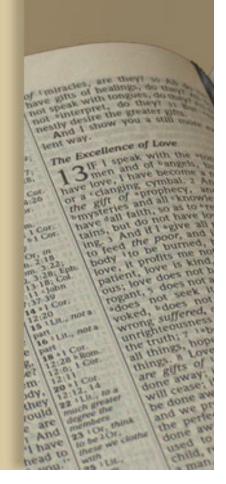
15 If the host should say, 15 If the host should not a constant the less and for the body.

16 And If the less should say, 16 In this rea constant the less should say, 16 In the less should say, 16 In the less constant the less should say, 16 In this rea constant the less should say, 17 If the whole constant the less should say, 18 In the less constant the less cons body it profits me nothing, has love, it profits me nothing. I have is kind, and six patient, love does not brag and it ous; love does not act unbecomes ous; love does not act unbecome rogant, not seek its own, it adoes not take in **ECCLESIA** rogalli not seek its own, is not seek its own, is not seek its own, is not seek woked, suffered, o stoes not resolve wrong suffered, o stoes not resolve unrighteousness, but brejokes unrighteousness, but brejokes all things, he had all things, he had things, hopes all things, he had things, hopes all things, he had all things, he had all things are gifts of it there are storged and all things if there is knowledge done away. If there is knowledge will crase, way, o For we sknow 10 And if the ear should a part of the lam not an eye, I am not a part of the part, I, I, not a body. It is not for this reason is my the less a part of the body. 17 If the would the body were an eye, where were hearing be? If the whole were hearing be? If the whole work smell be? where would the sense of smell be? be done away o For we sknow where would the sense of smer per 18 But now God has a placed the members pack bers, each one of them, in the body, bjust as He desired. I where would were all one member where where and we prophesy in part; to be the perfect comes, the parties were all one member, where would 22 third are the body be? 20 But now body. 21 have many members, but one hand, 14 have the eye cannot say to the hand, head to the eye cannot say to many members or again the head to have we closhed no need of you. 11 hs much these we closhed no need of you. 11 hs much these we closhed no need of you. 25 hs. 12 have no need of yours. the perfect of When I was a done away. If When I was a used to speak as a child, o child, reason as a child; when child, reason away with char-a man, I did away with char-a man, now we see to 12 For but then stace to 1 dimly in pare, but then

- God has purposely designed us to live together in groups
- It is through the Ecclesia that He is able to change us and grow our characters
- We are TRANSFORMED by the Ecclesia



- Life is all about LOVE
- Because God is Love...
- The most important lesson that He wants you to learn is HOW TO LOVE
- It is in LOVING OTHERS that we are most like God



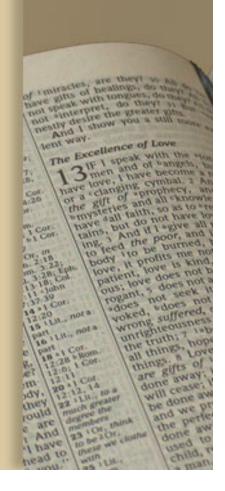
Galatians 5:14 (Message)

14) For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself.



John 13:34-35 (Message)

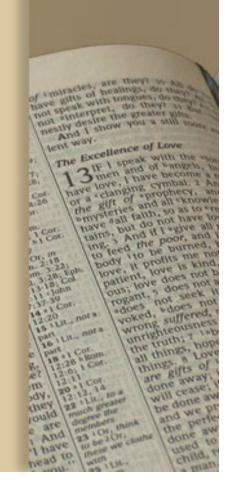
- 34) "Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another.
- This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples when they see the love you have for each other."
- Love cannot be learned in ISOLATION



1. Life without Love is WORTHLESS

1st Corinthians 13:3 (Message)

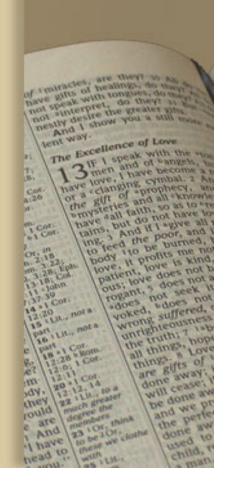
3) If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.



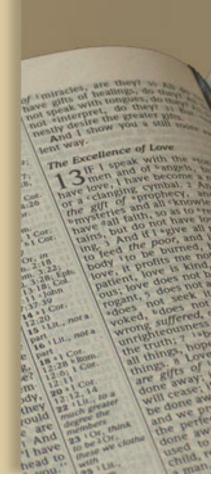
1. Life without Love is WORTHLESS

1st Corinthians 13:3 (Message)

- 36) "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"
- Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."
- 38) This is the first and greatest commandment.
- 39) And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'
- 40) All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

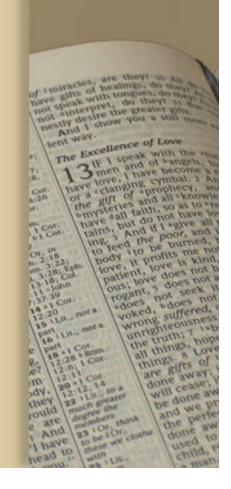


- 1. Life without Love is WORTHLESS
- 2. Love will last FOREVER
- 3. You will be **EVALUATED** on your Love



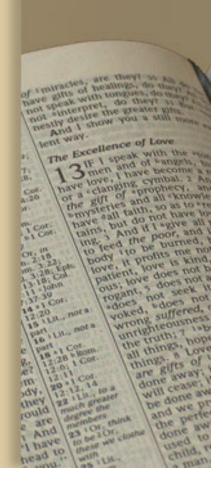
Matthew 25:37-40 (NIV)

- 37) "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?
- When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?
- When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'
- 40) "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'



Time

- The best expression of Love is TIME
- When you give someone your time, you are giving something that you'll never get back
- You can GIVE without LOVING
- But you can't LOVE without GIVING

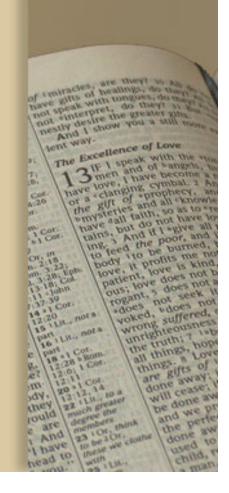


Belonging

You are called to BELONG

Romans 12:4-5 (NIV)

- 4) Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,
- 5) so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

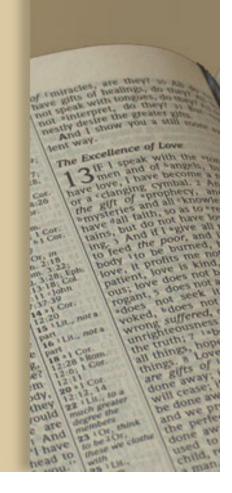


Belonging

 Following Christ means BELONGING not just BELIEVING

Romans 12:4-5 (NIV)

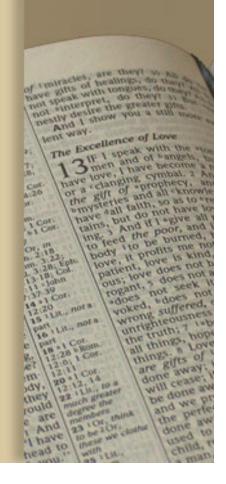
- 4) In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around.
- 5) The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we?



Belonging

The first symptom of spiritual decline is usually inconsistent attendance at Memorial Service and other gatherings of the Ecclesia

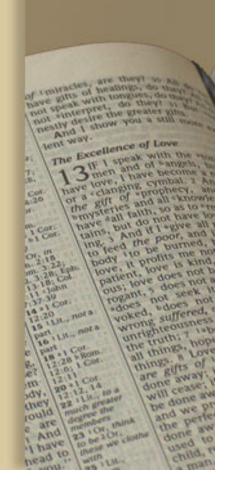
Beware of becoming spiritually disconnected even while sitting in Memorial Service



1. An Ecclesia forces you out of your SELF-CENTERED LIFE

1st Corinthians 12:26 (NIV)

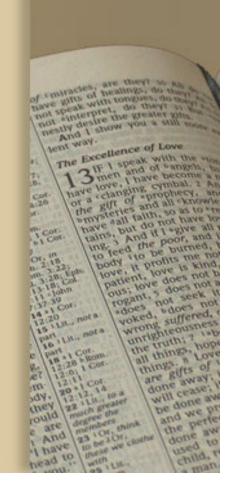
26) If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.



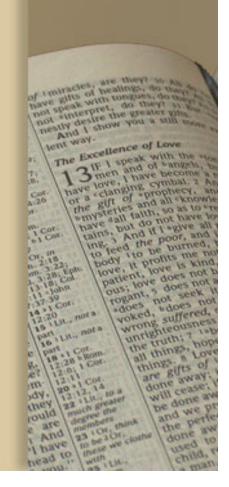
1. An Ecclesia forces you out of your SELF-CENTERED LIFE

1st John 3:16 (NIV)

16) This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.



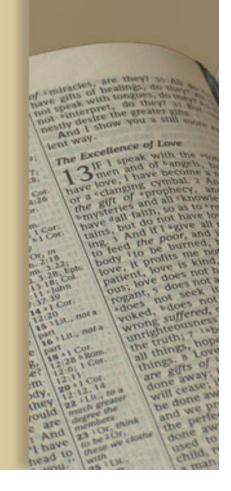
- 1. An Ecclesia forces you out of your SELF-CENTERED LIFE
- 2. An Ecclesia helps you develop SPIRITUAL MUSCLE



Forgive Each Other Teach Each Other Admonish Each Other **Pray For Each Other** Accept Each Other **Love Each Other** Greet Each Other Serve Each Other **Encourage Each Other Honor Each Other Submit to Each Other**

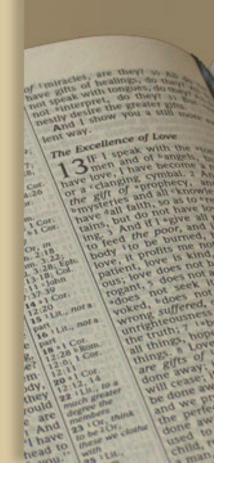


- 1. An Ecclesia forces you out of your SELF-CENTERED LIFE
- 2. An Ecclesia helps you develop SPIRITUAL MUSCLE
- 3. An Ecclesia helps keep you for BACKSLIDING



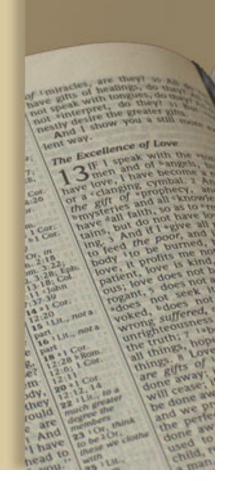
Hebrews 3:13 (NIV)

13) But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.



<u>James 5:19-20</u> (Message)

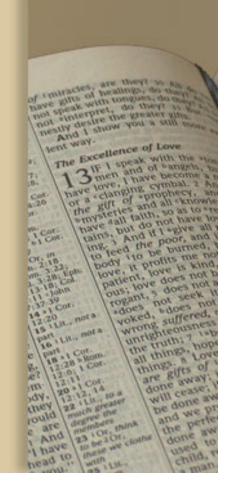
- 19) My dear friends, if you know people who have wandered off from God's truth, don't write them off. Go after them. Get them back
- 20) and you will have rescued precious lives from destruction and prevented an epidemic of wandering away from God.



1. God wants you to experience AUTHENTICITY

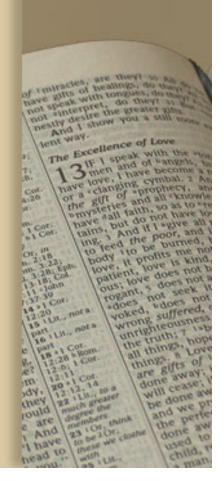
1st John 1:7-8 (Message)

- 7) But if we walk in the light, God himself being the light, we also experience a shared life with one another, as the sacrificed blood of Jesus, God's Son, purges all our sin.
- 8) If we claim that we're free of sin, we're only fooling ourselves. A claim like that is errant nonsense.



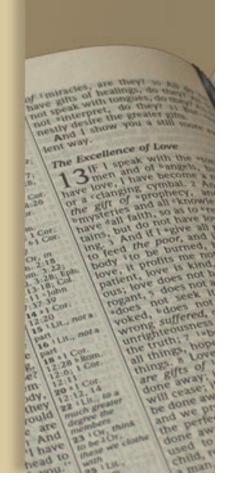
1. God wants you to experience AUTHENTICITY

2. God wants you to experience MUTUALITY

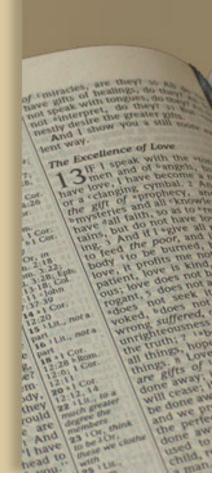


1st Corinthians 12:25-26 (Message)

- 25) The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't,
- 26) the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.



- 1. God wants you to experience AUTHENTICITY
- 2. God wants you to experience MUTUALITY
- 3. God wants you to experience **SYMPATHY**

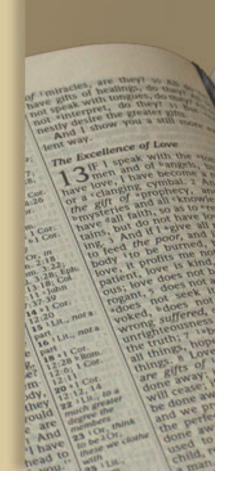


Galatians 6:2 (Message)

2) Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ's law.

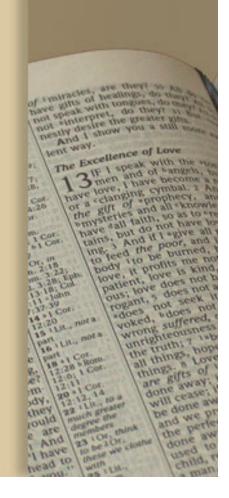


- 1. God wants you to experience AUTHENTICITY
- 2. God wants you to experience MUTUALITY
- 3. God wants you to experience SYMPATHY
- 4. God wants you to experience MERCY



Colossians 3:12-13 (NIV)

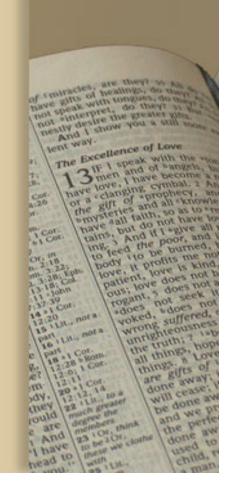
- 12) Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
- 13) Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.



Commitment

James 3:17-18 (Message)

- 17) Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced.
- 18) You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results *only* if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity.

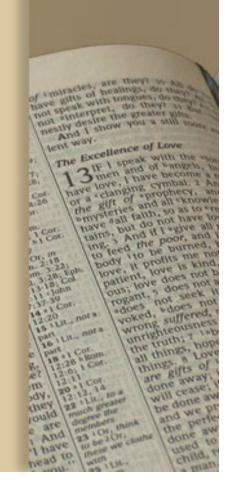


1. Commit Yourself to HONESTY



1st Corinthians 5:3, 6, 11 (Message)

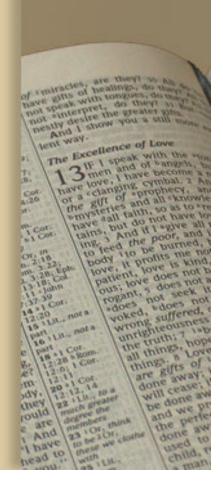
- 3) ...You must not simply look the other way and hope it goes away on its own. Bring it out in the open and deal with it in the authority of Jesus our Master.
- 6) ...You pass it off as a small thing, but it's anything but that. Yeast, too, is a "small thing," but it works its way through a whole batch of bread dough pretty fast.
- 11) ...l am saying that you shouldn't act as if everything is just fine when one of your Christian companions is promiscuous or crooked, is flip with God or rude to friends, gets drunk or becomes greedy and predatory. You can't just go along with this, treating it as acceptable behavior.



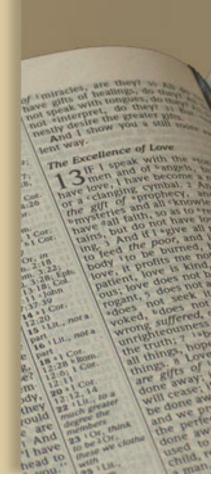
- 1. Commit Yourself to HONESTY
- 2. Commit Yourself to HUMILITY

Romans 12:16 (CEV)

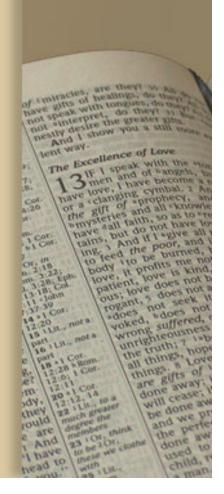
16) Be friendly with everyone. Don't be proud and feel that you are smarter than others. Make friends with ordinary people.



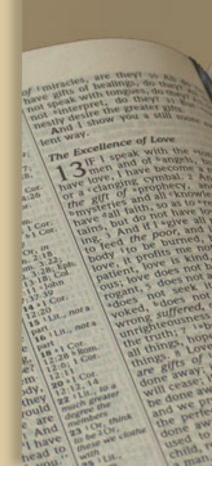
- 1. Commit Yourself to HONESTY
- 2. Commit Yourself to HUMILITY
- 3. Commit Yourself to COURTESY



- 1. Commit Yourself to HONESTY
- 2. Commit Yourself to HUMILITY
- 3. Commit Yourself to COURTESY
- 4. Commit Yourself to CONFIDENTIALITY



- 1. Commit Yourself to HONESTY
- 2. Commit Yourself to HUMILITY
- 3. Commit Yourself to COURTESY
- 4. Commit Yourself to CONFIDENTIALITY
- 5. Commit Yourself to FREQUENCY



Ecclesial Relationships are not built on CONVENIENCE, but on CONVICTION

You don't get together when you FEEL like it, but because you NEED it

God wants to TRANSFORM you through Your ECCLESIA

