

# The Transforming Power of DISCIPLESHIP

Transformed  
By The  
ECCLESIA

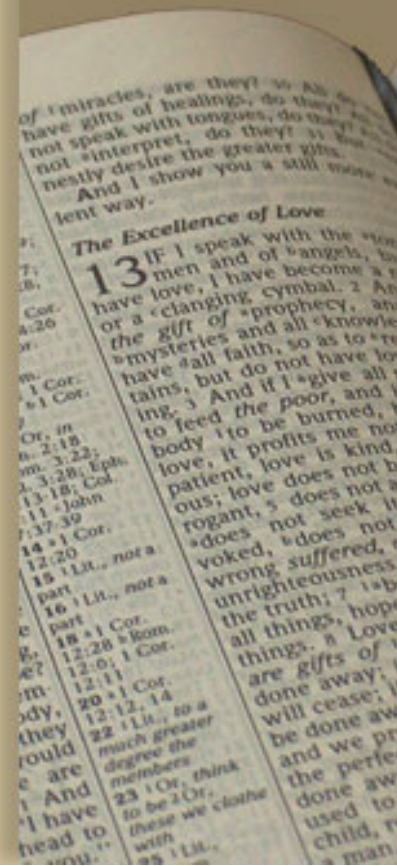


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# Transformed by The Ecclesia

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- 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



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# Transformed by The Ecclesia

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- 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



# Transformed by The Ecclesia

## 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.**





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# Transformed by The Ecclesia

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## 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**.
- 35) **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***



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# What Ecclesial Life Teaches Us

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## 1. Life without Love is **WORTHLESS**

### 1<sup>st</sup> 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.**



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# What Ecclesial Life Teaches Us

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## 1. Life without Love is **WORTHLESS**

### 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:3 (Message)

- 36) “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”
- 37) 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.”

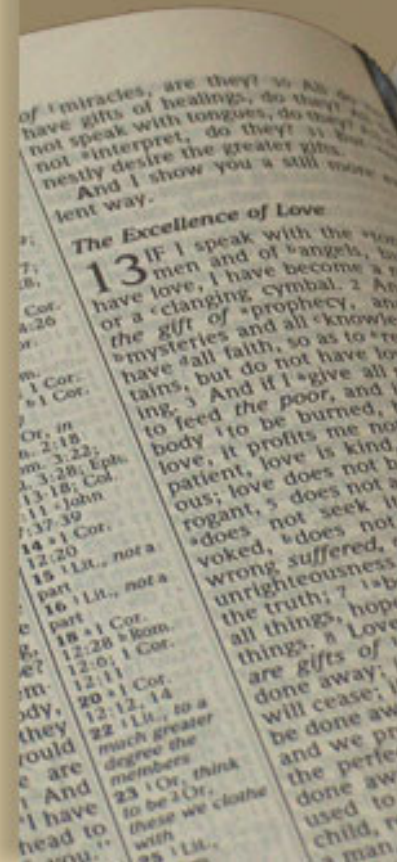


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# What Ecclesial Life Teaches Us

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





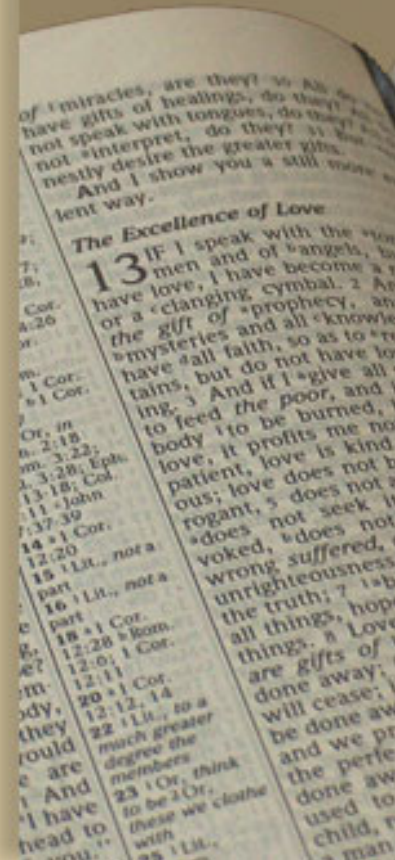
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# What Ecclesial Life Teaches Us

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## 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?’
- 38) When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?’
- 39) 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.**’



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# Time

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- *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***



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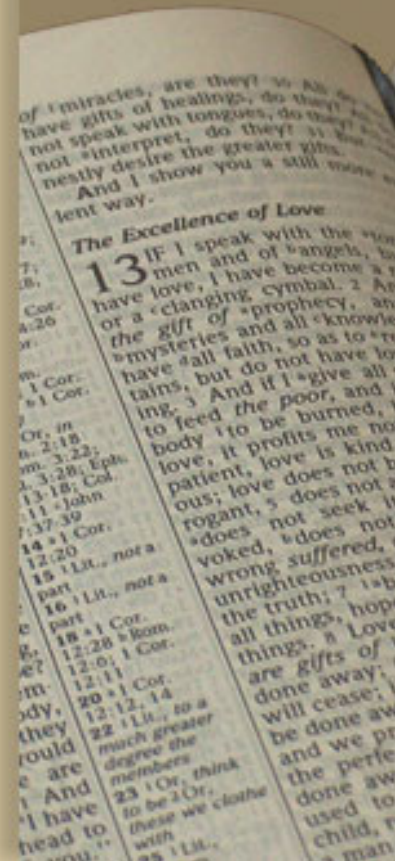
# Belonging

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- 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.**



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# Belonging

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- 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?





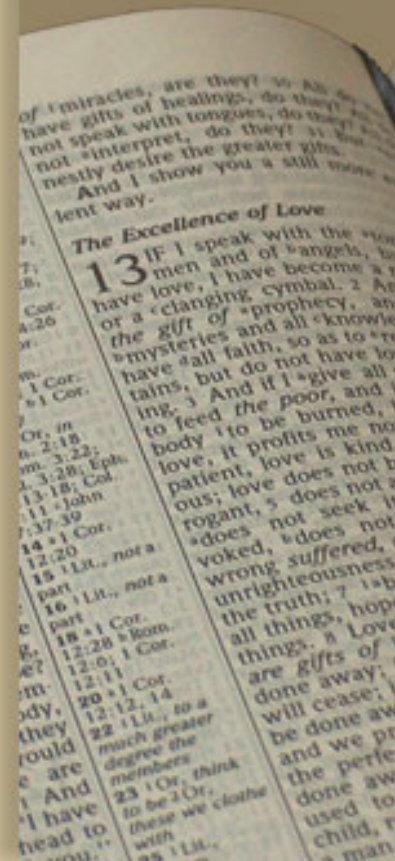
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# Belonging

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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



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# Benefits of Ecclesial Life

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

### 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:26 (NIV)

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



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# Benefits of Ecclesial Life

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## 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.**

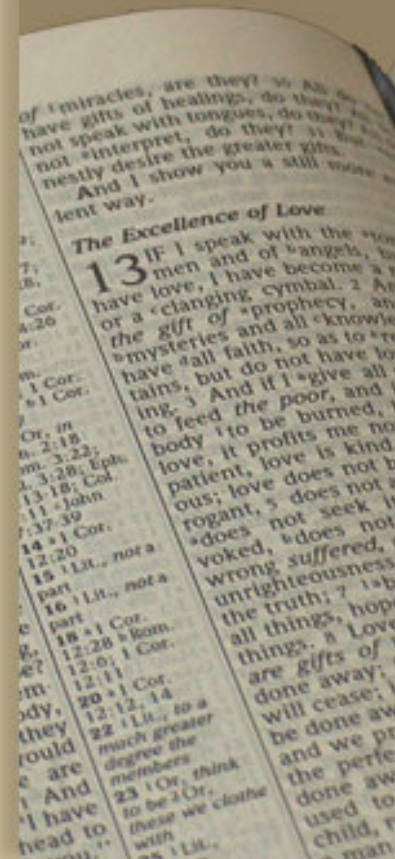


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# Benefits of Ecclesial Life

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



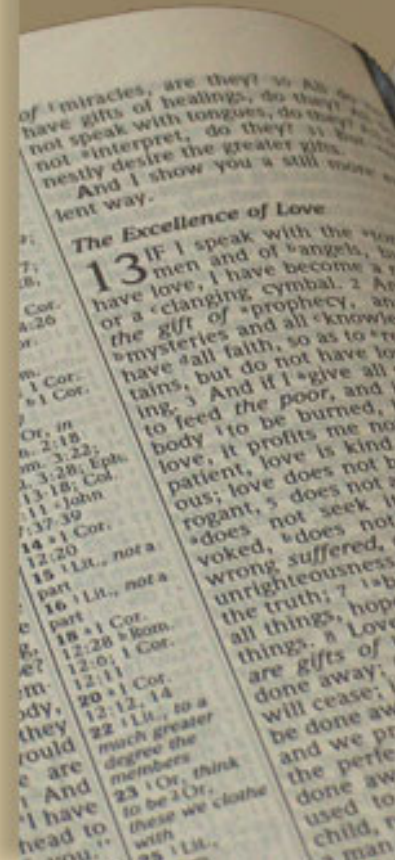


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# Benefits of Ecclesial Life

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

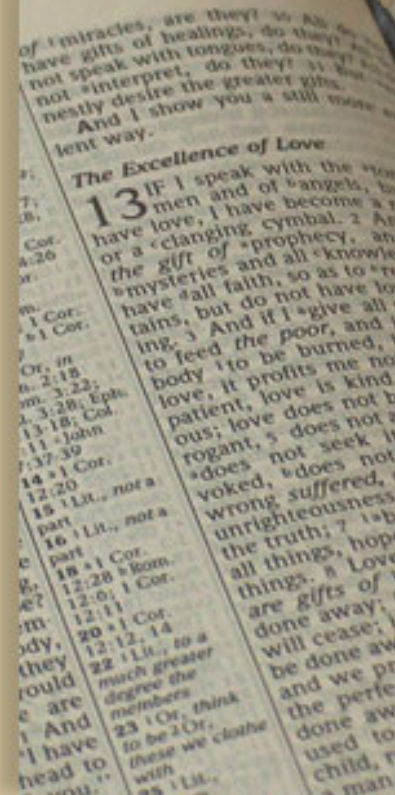


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# Benefits of Ecclesial Life

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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**



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# Benefits of Ecclesial Life

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## 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.



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# Benefits of Ecclesial Life

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## James 5:19-20 (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.





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# Ecclesial Relationships

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## 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.

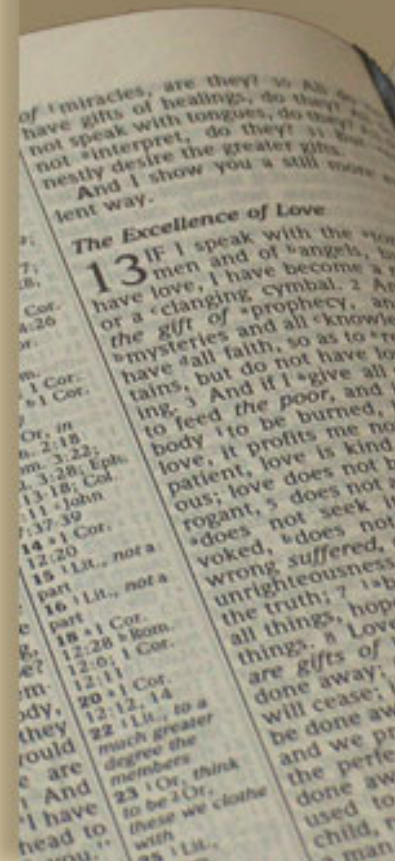


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# Ecclesial Relationships

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1. God wants you to experience **AUTHENTICITY**
2. God wants you to experience **MUTUALITY**



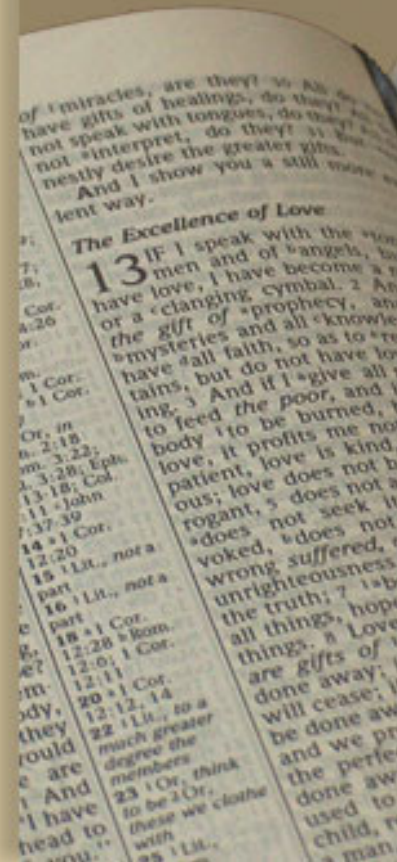
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# Ecclesial Relationships

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## 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



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# Ecclesial Relationships

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



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# Ecclesial Relationships

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## Galatians 6:2 (Message)

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



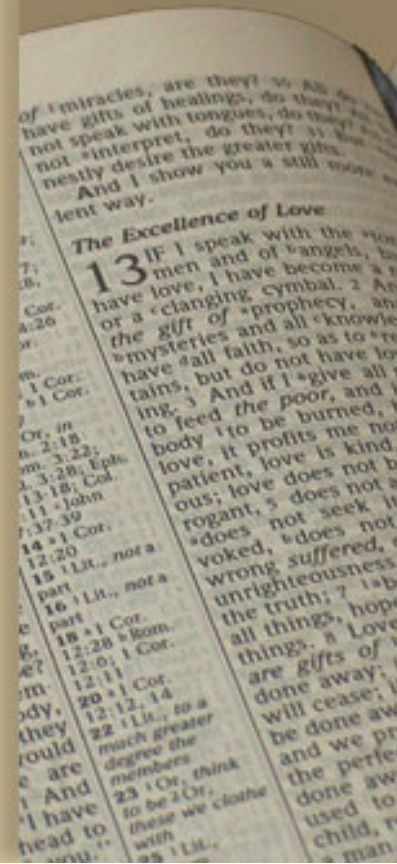


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# Ecclesial Relationships

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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**



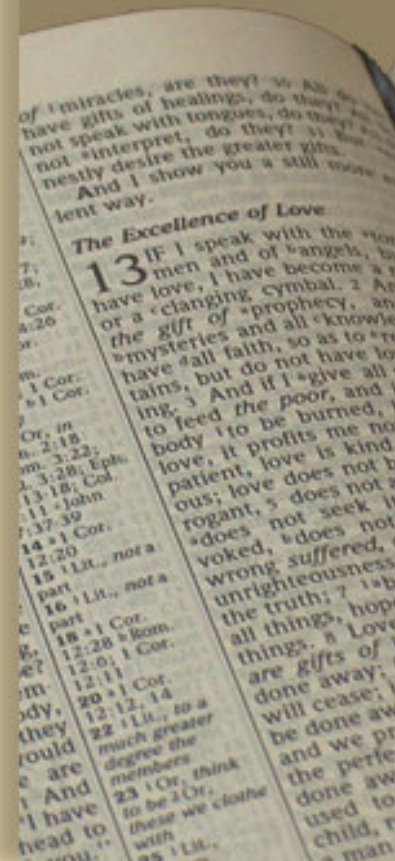
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# Ecclesial Relationships

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## 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.**



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# Commitment

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## 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.**

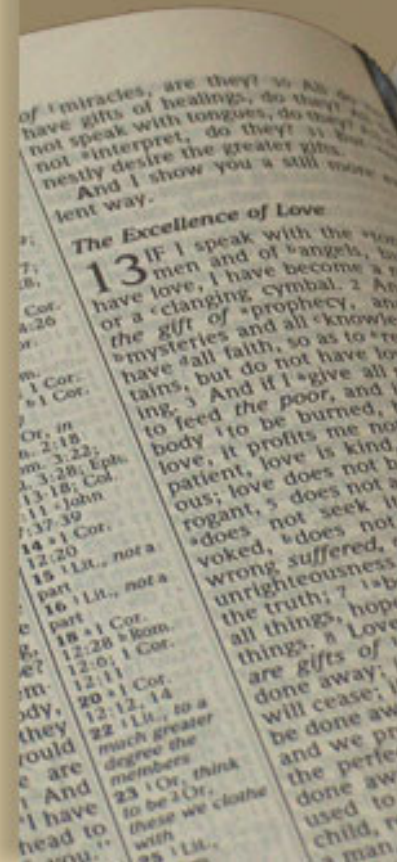


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# Transformed by the Ecclesia

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## 1. Commit Yourself to **HONESTY**



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# Transformed by the Ecclesia

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## 1<sup>st</sup> 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) ...**I 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.





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# Transformed by the Ecclesia

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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.

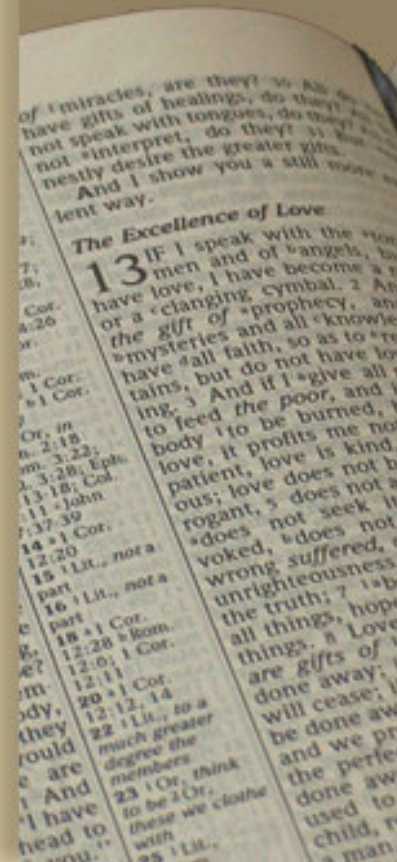


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# Transformed by the Ecclesia

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



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# Transformed by the Ecclesia

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

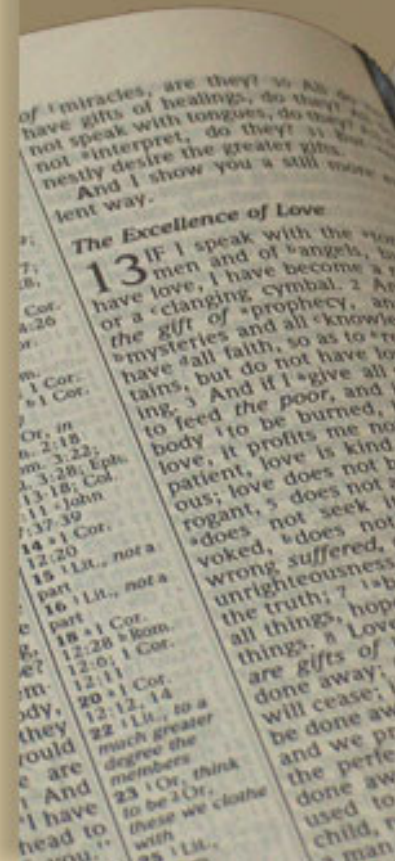


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# Transformed by the Ecclesia

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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**



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# Transformed by the Ecclesia

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*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***

