

## ONE ANOTHER:

Imagine the stir that Jesus must have caused when during his final conversation with his disciples, he announced a new commandment. This new commandment, recorded in John 13:34, challenged his disciples with a new paradigm. His command says:

*Love ONE ANOTHER.*

*As I have loved you, so you must love ONE ANOTHER.*

*All will know that you are my disciples if you love ONE ANOTHER.*

Love is a big concept that defies simple definition. The challenge is: when God says, “love one another,” what are we to do? How are we to love one another? This mysterious “how-to” of love is explained by the ONE ANOTHER passages of Scripture. Thirty-five times in the New Testament, we see a recurring word pattern – an action verb followed by the words “one another.” We are told to prefer, accept, greet, encourage, forgive, comfort, wait for, honor...ONE ANOTHER. These verbs teach us the “how-to” of love.

One of the conclusions of the Institute for Natural Church Development says: *“There is a highly significant relationship between the ability of a church to demonstrate love and its long-term growth potential. Growing churches possess on the average a measurably higher love quotient than stagnant or declining ones. Unfeigned, practical love is a divinely generated magnetic power far more effective than evangelistic programs that depend almost entirely on verbal communication. People do not want to hear us talk about love, they want to experience how Christian love really works.”* ( -- Remember our Mission Statement says GRACE – EXPERIENCE IT!)

Imagine the cumulative impact of every member of your church learning how to love others. If we would practice all 35 of the ONE ANOTHERS we would become genuinely attractive to our community. Instead of being attracted by gimmicks, the unchurched in Kokomo would be drawn to the genuine, authentic love of Christ that we would demonstrate. We look forward to our Fall Sermon series and Grace Night Out emphasis: **ONE ANOTHER: The Creation of God's Community.**

An eight week Disciple study of the Old Testament will be offered on Thursday night from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm starting Thursday, September 20. Please contact the church office if you are interested. Cost of the student book is \$9.00.