

Our Congregational Focus in 2020 **01-05-20 PM**

Every year we try to begin the year making a commitment to improvement of ourselves or of our congregation. Many congregations make an effort to this by selecting themes or visions or mottos for the year. We need to remind ourselves that the purposes given to the church are limited to certain things: Evangelism, Worship, Edification, Organization, Benevolence, and Purity. We are not permitted to add to these purposes nor to neglect any of them.

But what about when the need arises to make a particular purpose an area of focus? There are some examples in the New Testament of times when congregations saw particular purposes as being important to give focus. For example, in Acts 15 the church in Jerusalem needed to clarify a doctrinal point, and the entire congregation came together to focus on that purpose (purity). In Titus 1 Paul directed Titus to focus on the appointment of elders in the churches in Crete (organization). In Revelation 2 the church in Ephesus was directed by John to focus on “their first love”, possibly their affection for one another (edification). Thus we see that there is a time for a church to focus on a particular purpose (without neglecting the other purposes) in order to secure themselves.

What does this focus look like? We might say it is setting goals and expectations of members in the church. It needs to be an understanding of a total involvement by every member. For example, it was the individual members of the church in Jerusalem that needed to accept the doctrinal discernment; it was individual men in Crete who needed to do the work of oversight. Congregational goals are met at the individual level.

What is our goal in 2020? Any of our purposes would be appropriate. But perhaps we can actually improve all of our purposes if we were to personally focus on increasing the strength of our fellowship, our bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3). This means we are going to purposes to grow the love of our family. What is our method to our goal? Learning about the many “One Another” commandments of Scripture.

Hebrews 10:24-25 - *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

The “One another” commandments are all throughout the New Testament; there are over 50 such commandments given to us as individual members of the church. These commandments accomplish multiple purposes for the church. The goal as a member of this body is to increase involvement with others and fulfill these commandments.

Great things can happen if we make “one another” our focus as members of the body. We can make all of our purposes stronger. We can grow ourselves in a number of ways. Ultimately, when we are seeking to edify one another, we are truly doing so to Christ (Matthew 25:31-46).

ONE ANOTHER

1. "...Be at peace with each other." (Mark 9:50)
2. "...Wash one another's feet." (John 13:14)
3. "...Love one another..." (John 13:34)
4. "...Love one another..." (John 13:34)
5. "...Love one another..." (John 13:35)
6. "...Love one another..." (John 15:12)
7. "...Love one another" (John 15:17)
8. "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love..." (Romans 12:10)
9. "...Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10)
10. "Live in harmony with one another..." (Romans 12:16)
11. "...Love one another..." (Romans 13:8)
13. "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you..." (Romans 15:7)
14. "...Instruct one another." (Romans 15:14)
15. "Greet one another with a holy kiss..." (Romans 16:16)
16. "...When you come together to eat, wait for each other." (I Cor. 11:33)
17. "...Have equal concern for each other." (I Corinthians 12:25)
18. "...Greet one another with a holy kiss." (I Corinthians 16:20)
19. "Greet one another with a holy kiss." (II Corinthians 13:12)
20. "...Serve one another in love." (Galatians 5:13)
23. "Carry each other's burdens..." (Galatians 6:2)
24. "...Be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:2)
25. "Be kind and compassionate to one another..." (Ephesians 4:32)
26. "...Forgiving each other..." (Ephesians 4:32)
27. "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs." (Ephesians 5:19)
28. "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." (Ephesians 5:21)
29. "...In humility consider others better than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3)
31. "Bear with each other..." (Colossians 3:13)
32. "...Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another." (Colossians 3:13)

33. "Teach...[one another]" (Colossians 3:16)
34. "...Admonish one another (Colossians 3:16)
35. "...Make your love increase and overflow for each other." (I Thessalonians 3:12)
36. "...Love each other." (I Thessalonians 4:9)
37. "...Encourage each other..."(I Thessalonians 4:18)
38. "...Encourage each other..." I Thessalonians 5:11)
39. "...Build each other up..." (I Thessalonians 5:11)
40. "Encourage one another daily..." Hebrews 3:13)
41. "...Spur one another on toward love and good deeds." (Hebrews 10:24)
42. "...Encourage one another." (Hebrews 10:25)
43. "...Do not slander one another." (James 4:11)
44. "Don't grumble against each other..." (James 5:9)
45. "Confess your sins to each other..." (James 5:16)
46. "...Pray for each other." (James 5:16)
47. "...Love one another deeply, from the heart." (I Peter 3:8)
48. "...Live in harmony with one another..." (I Peter 3:8)
49. "...Love each other deeply..." (I Peter 4:8)
50. "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling." (I Peter 4:9)
51. "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others..." (I Peter 4:10)
52. "...Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another..."(I Peter 5:5)
53. "Greet one another with a kiss of love." (I Peter 5:14)
54. "...Love one another." (I John 3:11)
55. "...Love one another." (I John 3:23)
56. "...Love one another." (I John 4:7)
57. "...Love one another." (I John 4:11)
58. "...Love one another." (I John 4:12)
59. "...Love one another." (II John 5)