**Gifted for Ministry – 1 Cor. 12:24 – 25**

*But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another 1 Cor. 12:24 -25*

*And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer Acts 2:42*

1. **The church is the body of Christ providing loving care for one another**

The term one another occurs 100 times in the New Testament

1. The relational care of the church is the basis of all true Christian community
2. The relational care of the church has direct impact on the church witness to the world – John 13:35

***One another = mutual actions toward each other. Believers are doing something for and to each other in the church***

1. **Fellowship means relationship**
2. Believer’s share together in the common life, united to Christ with other believers
3. Fellowship is first a relationship not an activity. All activities flow out of the relationship of believers to each other in Christ
4. Fellowship is with God & one another

*What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ 1 John 1:3*

1. **Fellowship means partnership**
2. The church is a group of people bound together by our common life and blessings we share together through our relationship with Christ – Gene Getz
3. Believers are partners in sharing the gospel and making disciples

*that I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel…for to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me Phil.1: 27 – 30*

1. **Fellowship means companionship**
2. Believers as companion communicate with one another words of encouragement, rebuke & exhortation

Believers worship together – Word, Singing & Table of the Lord

Believers encourage one another

Believers exhort one another

1. Believers speak in love to one another concerning their lives and circumstances

Believers are willing to share their pain, hurts and burdens

Believers are willing to listen to the needs of others and their words

Believers are to encourage one another until Jesus comes again

*Remember the former days, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, know that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one Heb. 10:32 – 34*

*Encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called Today, so that noner of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin*

1. **Fellowship means stewardship**
2. Believers manage the gifts God gives to them

Believers manage their **time**

Believers manage their **spiritual gifts**

Believers manage their **bodies as the Temple of the Holy Spirit**

Believers manage the **God’s truth – hear it, believe it, live it**

Believers manage the **treasures – earthly goods**

*All those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved*

*Acts. 2:44 - 47*

1. **The church is joined to one another – the many & the one producing growth in the church**

*But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love Eph. 4: 15 -16*

1. Believers speak the truth to one another in love
2. Believers grow together in all aspects into Jesus Christ who is the head of the body
3. Believers grow together fitted and held together by what every believer supplies – spiritual gifts & relationships
4. Believers grow together by the work – exercise of each believer’s spiritual gifts
5. Believers exercise of spiritual gifts and relational love for each other produce growth in the body

**We are One in the Spirit**

We are One in The Spirit,
We are One in The Lord.
We are One in The Spirit,
We are One in The Lord.
And we pray that our unity may one day be restored.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
By our Love,Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other,
We will work side by side.
We will work with each other,
We will work side by side.
And we'll guard each man's dignity
And save each man's pride.

We will walk with each other,
We will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other,
We will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the News
that God is in our land.