

The Four “Ought To’s” of Fellowship 1 John 3:16-18; Various Scriptures

Sermon Series: The 4 Absolute
Necessities in Following Christ

1 John 3:16-18 (NIV)

- 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. ¹⁷If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?
- ¹⁸Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

I. Love One Another

- John 13:34-35 (NIV), *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

Biblical Love Involves:

- ***Truth in Action*** (1 John 3:16-18 NIV)
- *“¹⁸Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.”*
- Notice two things must be operative: the truth and the “deed” or action.

James 2:15-16 (NIV)

- *Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?*

Biblical Love Involves (cont'd):

- ***Affection Among Saints***
- Romans 16:16, “*Greet one another with a holy kiss.*”
- 1 Peter 1:22, “*Fervently love one another from the heart.*”

II. Serve One Another

- Romans 12:3 (NIV), *“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.”*

To serve one another we must:

- *Have an accurate view of ourselves*
- *Take the initiative* (John 13-Jesus washing the feet of the disciples)
- John 13:14 (NIV), *“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.”*

To serve one another we must (cont'd):

- *Have the right motivation*
- Philippians 2:3 (NIV), *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.”*

III. Restore One Another

- Galatians 6:1-2 (NIV), *“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. ²Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”*

Restoring One Another Means:

- *Mending the Broken*
- Christians need restoring on a number of levels:
- First of all, we need to restore a brother or sister who is “caught” in sin.

Restoring One Another Means (cont'd)

- Notice the qualifications of those who should help a person caught in sin:
- They should be *spiritual*.
- They should be *humble*.
- The person caught is to be restored in “a *spirit of gentleness*” (Gal. 6:1)

Restoring One Another Means (cont'd)

- The restoration should be *collective*.
- The pronouns in Galatians 6 are in the plural.
- The helpers should proceed with *caution*.

Restoring One Another Means (cont'd)

- Not only are we to restore *the caught*, we are to help *the carnal*.
- James 5:19-20 (NIV), “¹⁹*My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back,* ²⁰*remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.*”

Restoring One Another Means (cont'd)

- Once you restore the person, you need to forgive him or her.
- Matthew 18:21-35 (The Parable of the Talents)

Restoring One Another Means (cont'd)

- *Breaking Fellowship*
- When restoration is refused, the Bible says we are to break fellowship.
- 1 Corinthians 5:11 (NIV), *“But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.”*

IV. Encouraging One Another

- I Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV), *“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”*
- *The Job of a Comforter*
- Is to build other believers up.

Encourage One Another (cont'd)

- ***The Tools of a Comforter***
- The Word of God
- Romans 15:14 says we are “*to admonish one another.*”
- This has to do with guiding and counseling.

No False Advertising

- If we claim we have a dog, then let's have a bark.

Invitation

