

Life Together

Long Beach Alliance Church • July 29th, 2012 • Pastor Chris Lankford

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly well within you, with all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

~Colossians 3:12-17 (NASB)

1) Love God...

- A) We have spent a lot of time this Summer exploring the mission of the church (making disciples), and how we all accomplish the mission (go to their turf, incorporate new disciples, teach the Gospel message).
- B) What a great blessing God has given to each one of His followers (1st Peter 2:9-10)! We have the extraordinary honor of loving God by participating in His mission of reaching the whole world with His Son, Jesus Christ (Romans 8:28-30).

- C) The bottom line is this! God is most glorified when we are actively living out His purposes for our lives (Matthew 5:14-16). This is not just accomplished within our church family, but is especially accomplished in the world (1st Peter 2:12).

2) The Terror Of Living The Christian Life

- A) But wait... Are you saying every person who is a disciple of Jesus Christ (the church) is responsible to “make disciples” as they “go, baptize, and teach” (Matthew 28:19-20)?
- B) The responsibility of the disciplemaking task seems overwhelming! How can one accomplish the mission of making disciples? This seems like a good recipe for burnout (2nd Timothy 3:12)!

3) Love Others...

- A) Of course, if any person attempts to make disciples by themselves, the great difficulty of the task would be unbearable. Thank God He has given us both His Spirit (John 16:5-11) and one another (Philippians 2:1-4).
- B) The Holy Spirit provides recall to our minds of the words of Jesus Christ (John 14:26-27). The words of Jesus (Scripture) bring peace to our troubles and fears!
- C) In addition, as the church, we experience life together in intentional relationships which allow us to “work out” what it means to be in unity which comes from love for one another (Colossians 3:12-14).
- D) In Scripture, this “loving unity” is called “fellowship” (koinonia) -- intentional loving relationships which are centered around God’s Word (Colossians 3:15-17).
- E) God provides His Holy Spirit and the loving unity of koinonia fellowship to all of His people (the church) for accomplishing the mission of making disciples! The Bible even calls our relationships in the church “the fellowship (koinonia) of the Holy Spirit” (2nd Corinthians 13:14)!