God’s Kingdom Family ‐‐‐ What should be the distinctive lifestyle of every Christian?

**Committed to Each Other**

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| **Command** | Biblical Reference | Explanation / Description / or Definition |
| **Love one another** | John 13:34 | To love is to joyfully sacrifice in order to give what the beloved needs. (Also the basic idea occurs indirectly in: John 15:12, 17; Ro 12:9,10; 13:8; Gal 5:14; 1 Thessalonians 3:11,12; 4:9,10; Jas 2:8; 1 Pet 1:22, 3:8; 1 John 3:11,23; 4:7,11,12,21; 2 John 5) |
| **Receive one another** | Romans 15:7 | Receiving one another is taking to ourselves our brothers or sisters in Christ, freely and without constraint and reserve, in full recognition of our equal and mutual fellowship in Christ. We reject all forms of prejudice and racism. |
| **Greet one another** | Romans 16:16 | Greeting one another is an outward acknowledgment of our mutual life in Christ and our brotherly love for one another. (1 Co 16:20; 2 Co 13:12; 1 Peter 5:14) |
| **Have the same care for one another** | 1 Cor 12:24, 25 | Having the same care for one another is showing an impartial care for the welfare and ministry of every believer. |
| **Submit to one another** | Ephesians 5:18‐21 | Submitting to one another is inwardly considering oneself to be under the authority of fellow Christians and willingly complying with their decisions, instructions, or wishes. |
| **Wait one for another** | 1 Cor 11:33 | Wait one for another refers to waiting patiently for folks in order to partake together of a love feast (often associated with the Lord’s Supper) |
| **Forbear one another** | Ephesians 4:1‐3 | Forbearing one another is graciously enduring and putting up with the displeasing, offensive, or sinful attitudes and actions in others. It includes the idea that rebuke, discipline, or correction be delayed as long as possible in hope that the offender recognizes his/her offense and takes steps to correct it. (Col 3:12‐14). |
| **Confess your sins to one another** | James 5:16 | Confessing sins to one another is acknowledging to fellow‐believers one’s sins as an outward sign of sorrow for the offense, intent to change, and desire for reconciliation. It presupposes a previous or simultaneous acknowledgment of the particular sin to God. |
| **Forgive one another** | Eph 4:31, 32 | Forgiving one another is regarding a fellow‐believer who has wronged or offended you, not with contempt or resentment but rather with compassion, not holding that one accountable for the wrong or its consequences |

**Protecting One Another** Just as the Scriptures tell Christians how to relate to one another, it points out and forbids several sins that are destructive

to Christian fellowship.

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| **Command** | Biblical Reference | Explanation / Description / or Definition |
| **Do not judge one another** | Romans 14:13 | Judging one another is reckoning one’s own position on a disputed practice or doctrinal question as superior to others’ positions and expressing criticism, condemnation, or displeasure at their disagreement. |
| **Do not speak evil of one another** | James 4:11 | Speaking evil of one another is speaking of a fellow‐believer in such a way as to discredit, dishonor, depreciate or belittle his/her character or actions. |
| **Do not murmur against one another** | James 5:9 | Murmuring against one another is expressing discontent, impatience, or displeasure with one believer to other believers, usually in a secret or in a covert manner. |
| **Do not bite and devour one another** | Galatians 5:14, 15 | Biting and devouring one another is showing hostility and ill‐will to fellow‐believers through attacks on their character, worth, motives, beliefs, or actions in order to establish one’s own advantage or superiority. |
| **Do not provoke one another** | Galatians 5:25, 26 | Provoking one another is challenging the work, reputation, position or belief of a fellow‐believer by words or actions in an effort to assert oneself or gain recognition. |
| **Do not envy one another** | Galatians 5:25‐26 | Envying one another is desiring for oneself the position, ability, achievement, or possessions of a fellow believer, usually with a sense of resentment that the other has the advantages one desires. |
| **Do not lie to one another** | Col 3:9, 10 | Lying to one another is telling as true that which is known to be false, distorting the truth in any way, or conveying a false impression of oneself or something, with the intent to deceive another believer. |

**Sharing Responsibility for Helping Every Person Grow**

Every Christian is committed to GIVING and RECEIVING help with other Christians. We come together to encourage one another to learn and to

apply the Bible in our daily lives. Motivated by love we never say, “Well, her problem or concern is not mine.”

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| **Command** | Biblical Reference | Explanation / Description / or Definition |
| **Building up one another** | Romans 14:19; 1 Thess 5:11 | Building up one another is a process of interaction among believers by which they promote, by teaching or example, the development of Christ‐like character and behavior in one another. |
| **Teach one another** | Colossians 3:16 | Teaching one another is instructing, explaining, or exposing biblical truth to fellow believers in such a way that they may understand the truth and are enabled and encouraged to apply it in their own lives. |
| **Exhort one another** | 1 Thess 5:11 Hebrews 3:12,13 | Exhorting one another is a three‐fold ministry in which believers urge each other to action in terms of applying scriptural truth, encourage each other generally with scriptural truth, and comfort each other through the application of scriptural truth to their needs. |
| **Admonish one another** | Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16 | Admonishing one another is a disciplinary ministry in which believers bring to each other’s attention their sinful attitudes and practices or unmet obligations, and offer corrective instruction that will enable and encourage them to bring those areas of their lives into conformity with the Word of God. |
| **Speak to one another in psalms, hymn, and spiritual songs** | Ephesians 5:18‐20; Colossians 13:16 | Speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, or in singing to one another, is a means of teaching, exhorting or admonishing others, and joining others in praise to God, in words set, to music. |

**Mutual Serving & Submitting in Humility**

Pride is THE sin that blocks enjoying a love relationship with God or others. Pride isolates by encouraging me to be the judge of others rather than

their servant. Humble people are easily identified by walking alongside not in judgment over others. THE unique character trait of Christ that

attracted some, but was viewed by his enemies as weakness, was His servant lifestyle.

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| **Command** | Biblical Reference | Explanation / Description / or Definition |
| **Be servants to one another** | Gal 5:13‐ 14 | Being servants to one another through love is freely and voluntarily obligating oneself to undertake for fellow‐believers any work or task which may be necessary, helpful, or advantageous to their spiritual, physical, or mental welfare. |
| **Bear one another’s burdens** | Gal 6:2 | Bearing one another’s burden is taking upon oneself a fellow‐believer’s difficulty, problem, or oppressive circumstance as it if were our own and taking any possible action to alleviate it.. |
| **Use hospitality to one another** | 1 Peter 4:7 | Using hospitality to one another is receiving into one’s home fellow‐Christians, especially strangers and those in distress, and providing for their physical and material needs as for one’s own. |
| **Be kind to one another** | Eph 4:31‐ 32 | Being kind to one another is expressing love and benevolence to fellow‐Christians in gestures of generosity, helpfulness, and thoughtfulness, without regard to circumstances and expecting nothing in return. |
| **Pray for one another** | Jam 5:16 | Praying for one another is making known to God the sins, needs, or concerns of fellow‐believers, asking Him to act on their behalf so that His will might be accomplished. |

This material can be found in expanded form in *The Five Smooth Stones: Essential Principles for Biblical Ministry* by Robertson McQuilkin (get it here

from Amazon.com). It is also based on *Reciprocal Living* by Sue Harville (published in 1976 by the West Indies Mission of Coral Gables, Florida).

This is now out of print as is her small groups’ manual, *Walking in Love,* which was used as a simplified 13‐part study of the reciprocal commands