



# ONE ANOTHERING

**Key Verse(s): Scripture: "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour." Rom. 12:10**

**Suggested format:** Social time/ice-breaker, Word, worship with communion and prayer

## **\*\* TOP TIPS \*\***

**Remember people are indwelt with the spirit – expect them to have something to bring – most just need permission and clarity, and yearn for depth.**

- **WELCOME:** Have fun, involve everyone, keep it moving
- **WORSHIP:** Deliberately LEAD people into stepping out – most people appreciate specific guidance and feel released to know how to participate (e.g. let's read a Psalm together and use the words to help us worship, let's listen to this song, let's sing now, let's have a time of prophecy and hearing from God, if you feel you want to start a song please do). Encourage gifts!
- **PRAYER:** Weave into all you do, respond to things as they come up and help people by being specific (e.g. let's all go round and pray short prayers thanking God for a particular characteristic
- **WORD:** Some folks would not have been there on Sunday – don't; worry too much about recapping, just dive into questions. Splitting people into pairs/small groups with specific question and a time frame usually brings out the best discussion and involvement of everyone.

## **KEY QUESTIONS**

1. What?

- a. What is affection toward fellow believers, and what does it mean to honour each other? Why is this commanded? Why is it important? And finally, how to experience it? How do you have affection for a believer you may not even like?
- b. What is affection? And what is honour?
  - i. Both words (in v10a), "love" and "brotherly affection," are emotion-laden words.
- c. What about showing honour?
  - i. Verse 10b says, "Outdo one another in showing honour." What is that? Honour is different from affection. You can honour a person for whom you have no affection. Paul doesn't want you to choose between these. Do both he says. But they are different. Honouring someone is treating them with your deeds and your words as worthy of your service. They may not be worthy of it. But you can do it anyway. Some honouring means treating people better than they deserve.



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## 2. Why?

- a. Now, secondly, why is this so important? Why does it matter that we have affection for each other and that we prefer to honour each other?
  - i. First, God commands that we love with affection and that we honour each other because these two experiences (along with the others in Romans 12) show the reality of our new nature in Christ.
  - ii. Second, God demands that we love with affection and prefer to honour each other because this strengthens and confirms the faith of those we love affectionately and honour.
  - iii. Third, God demands that we love with affection and prefer to honour over being honoured because this displays the glory of Christ, because he is the one who enables us to live this way and this is a portrait of his own character.
  - iv. Fourth, God demands that we love with affection and honour each other because this lures the world to love him and all that he is for them in Christ.

## 3. How?

- a. Finally, the question: How? How do you have affection for a believer you may not even like?
  - i. Preach to yourself that other believers, no matter how imperfect, are the children of God, your Father.
  - ii. Look for evidence of grace in their flawed lives.
  - iii. Remember you were once utterly alienated from God and cut off without hope. See Ephesians 2:12.
  - iv. Revel in God's mercy and affections for God's people will grow and you will love to honour them.