

your response to this emphasis? How important do you think it is for believers to stay connected with others?

George suggested that encouragement is important for our protection and our growth. What does it look like to encourage others and be encouraged in these areas?



***“Being ‘For’ One
Another”***

October 1st, 2006

“A new commandment I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” (John 13:34-35)

To “love” others is to be FOR them!

How?

- Be a grace-giver

“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” (Eph. 4:1-3; NIV)

“Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults, because of your love.” (Eph. 4:2; NLT)

“Bearing with others means fully accepting them in their uniqueness, including their weaknesses and faults, and allowing them worth and space.” – A. T. Lincoln

Areas in which I can “give grace”:

- personality
- perspective
- maturity

- Be an encourager

“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

(Heb. 10:19-25)

“See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.” (Heb. 3:12-13)

We encourage one another for:

- protection
- growth

Do you have questions/comments about what you have heard? You can contact George at 237-6094 or george@salemefc.org

An audio copy of this message is available at www.salemefc.org

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

George defined the idea of “loving one another” as being “FOR” others. How would you describe what it looks like to be “FOR” other people? What are concrete examples of this?

Has there ever been someone who was truly a “grace giver” in your life? What did they do that communicated grace to you?

In what situations do you find it easy to give grace to others? In what situations is this difficult?

What does it take to be a person who is able to give grace to others? Paul states that making allowances for others is related to humility, or self-forgetfulness. What must I give up in order to be a “grace giver”?

In Hebrews 3:13 and 10:19-25, we see the importance of encouragement. In highlighting this theme, the author states that we should not “give up meeting together”—in other words, he expects believers to be getting together regularly. What’s