Foreword by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth **OF SCRIPTURE** A 30-Day Devotional Pevive Our Hearts"

Living Out the One Anothers of Scripture

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Foreword by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth/
	Introduction9
Part I:	Jour Attitude
	1. Let Us Not Pass Judgment on One Another
	2. Let Us Not Envy One Another
	3. Be Kind to One Another, Forgiving One Another 21
	4. Clothe Yourselves with Humility Toward One Another 25
	5. Submit to One Another
	6. Stir Up One Another to Love and Good Works
	7. Always Seek to Do Good to One Another
Part II:	Your Presence
	8. Welcome One Another
	9. Comfort One Another
	10. Bear One Another's Burdens
	11. Bear with One Another in Love
	12. Be Kind to One Another

Part III: Your Communication

	13. Do Not Lie to One Another	5
	14. Confess Your Sins to One Another	39
	15. Live in Harmony with One Another	′3
	16. Let Us Not Provoke One Another	77
	17. Do Not Speak Evil Against One Another	31
	18. Do Not Grumble Against One Another	35
	19. Pray for One Another	39
	20. Build One Another Up)3
	21. Teach and Admonish One Another)7
	22. Exhort One Another	Э1
	23. Encourage One Another)5
Part IV	: Your Actions	
	24. Greet One Another	11
	25. Show Hospitality to One Another	15
	26. Outdo One Another in Showing Honor	9
	27. Wash One Another's Feet	23

28. Wait for One Another	27
29. Do Not Deprive One Another	31
30. Use Your Gifts to Serve One Another	35
A Closing Blessing	39
Meet Our Staff Contributors	10
Notes	41



A number of years ago, I found myself sitting on a set of hard bleachers, cheering for some of my friends' kids who were playing in a junior high basketball game. Our team was trailing badly. The poor boys grew increasingly exhausted and discouraged. But instead of encouraging one another, they began to pick on each other.

Those of us who were seated in the stands watched helplessly as these kids began to compete against each other instead of against the other team! As a result they became even more frustrated, downhearted, and ineffective. I can't recall the final outcome of that game, but I know what we witnessed that day looks a lot like our lives and relationships at times—even in the Body of Christ.

As followers of Jesus, we are on the same team, a team owned, selected, and coached by God Himself. Through His Word, God gives clear guidance on how we can build up our fellow teammates.

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"Comfort one another." (2 Cor. 13:11)
"Build one another up." (1 Thess. 5:11)
"Serve one another." (Gal. 5:13)
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And unlike what I witnessed at the ball game that day, we are supposed to encourage one another (Heb. 10:25).

There are lots more "one anothers" in Scripture. "Do not speak evil against one another" (James 4:11). "Do not grumble against one another" (James 5:9). "Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed" (James 5:16).

What a joy it is to belong to God's team and to know that we don't have to live the Christian life by ourselves.

None of us can become spiritually mature or have a fruitful life if we're not consistently on both the giving and receiving end of these "one anothers" found in God's Word. We all need to be encouraged, exhorted, rebuked, forgiven, prayed for, and built up by those who heed God's command to "love one another" (John 13:34).

How grateful I am for the people in my life who help me become more like Jesus by practicing these and other "one anothers." I want to fulfill my responsibility to demonstrate Christ's love to them in return.

The resource you are holding in your hands has been developed by some of our Revive Our Hearts writers to help you discover and live out the "one anothers" of Scripture.

As you walk through this thirty-day devotional, ask the Lord to show you how you can build up the believers around you with these important, life-giving "one anothers." May God's Word remind you of the responsibility and privilege it is to be on His team, and may His Spirit enable you to faithfully care for the "one anothers" in your life.

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth



Start to look for them in your Bible, and you will find them everywhere—the "one anothers." They are a series of commands for how the image-bearers of God (that's us!) are to treat our fellow image-bearers.

We find one here ...

"Outdo one another in showing honor" (Rom. 12:10).

Another one here . . .

"Comfort one another" (2 Cor. 13:11).

And still another one right here ...

"Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another" (James 5:16).

Pile all of the "one anothers" into one big, beautiful box, and you could wrap it neatly with this bow: "For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another" (1 John 3:11).

Love one another.

Perhaps it feels like an overly simplistic solution to a world so broken by sin. Or maybe, more likely, you've tried it, and found the "others" in the "one anothers" difficult to love. And yet over and over throughout His Word, God repeats this command.

"Love one another" (John 13:34).

"Love one another" (John 15:12).

"Love one another" (Rom. 12:10).

All of the other "one anothers" flow from this single expectation.

That beautiful box filled with the bow I mentioned to you before? It is indeed a gift. These are treasured principles for how to live with each other in harmony. And where there is a gift, there is always a gift-giver. In this case, the Giver is Jesus, the God of love. He modeled the statements you'll read about in this devotional by loving us first (and loving us still).

When the rules for engagement with the others around us war against our flesh, we look toward Another who is not one of us. We ask Him to transform our hearts to become more like His so we can treat others the way His Word commands us to.

For the next thirty days, enjoy spending time with the "one anothers" of Scripture. As you do, may you be encouraged to love the "one anothers" all around you.



Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, who . . . emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-7 CSB



Therefore let us not pass
judgment on one another any
longer, but rather decide never
to put a stumbling block or
hindrance in the way of a brother.

ROMANS 14:13

LET US NOT PASS JUDGMENT ON One Another

Perhaps it was a cucumber. I suppose it could have been a carrot, a turnip, or a bunch of kale. Scripture doesn't tell us what it was exactly, but Romans 14 does reveal that the people of God were looking down their noses at each other. What was the source of scorn, exactly? Vegetables. Yep, vegetables.

"One person believes he may eat anything," the apostle Paul wrote, "while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats" (vv. 2-3).

There are passages in Scripture that warn us against judging another person's sins unless we want the same measuring stick applied to our sin (Matt. 7:1–5). This is a different kind of warning. Paul is warning us not to judge other Christian's preferences.

- Perhaps you homeschool and another mom in your church sends her children to public school. That's a preference.
- Maybe your family watches PG-13 movies and your sister's family doesn't own a television. Preference.
- You love one Bible translation and your Bible study leader likes another.
- Your kids never miss church for sports; your friend's kids see sports as their mission field.
- You love upbeat worship music; your husband likes the old hymns.
- Preference. Preference. Preference.

When we feel judgment toward another believer, when we dislike their choices or convince ourselves they are somehow less spiritual than us

because of them, isn't a preference usually to blame? How many churches and friendships have split over preference disguised as principle?

In contrast, God's Word urges us to extend grace, not judgment, toward one another.

"Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother" (Rom. 14:13).

Grace is a decision. A choice you can make when a Christian brother or sister has a preference that is different from yours. Paul reminds us why: "for God has welcomed him" (v. 3).

Since the "one anothers" in your world are welcomed by Christ, you are free to welcome them, too. Welcome them into your heart. Welcome them into your church. Welcome them into your home, free of judgment.

Who knows? They might even bring you some vegetables.



CONSIDER:

How does the gospel impact the everyday ways we respond to other Christians? Since we are accepted by Christ through His grace, not our perfection, how does this color the way we view the choices of others who are in Him?	

PRAY:

Ask God to reveal any evidence of a critical spirit toward other believers. Repent for any exposed judgment toward your Christian brothers and sisters.

TRUST:

If something needs adjusted in the life of a fellow believer, or in your own, you can trust God to do it through the power of the Holy Spirit.

> "Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment." (John 16:7-8)

DO:

Choose to celebrate your Christian brothers and sisters who chose differently than you. Shoot a text to a Christian friend who has a different preference than you and tell her how much you admire her.