

How Should We Treat One Another?

Intro: How do you perceive Christians in your national culture treat each other? In North America you may have heard the accusation that the church is the "only army on earth that shoots their wounded." Many non-Christians look at how we Christians treat each other and quickly decide they want nothing to do with the church. On the other hand, early on in the history of the church, the Christians treated each other with such respect and love that even the non-Christian rulers noted it. Although there are probably a lot of reasons why this changed (the decline of intimate relationships when the church moved from House Church and into church buildings). However, this week we're going to take a look at what the New Testament teaches about how we should treat each other as fellow followers on the path. And then you'll articulate what you believe.

What the Bible Teaches: Break into Groups of Four, read the following Bible verses, and discuss the questions. You may want to jot down notes and thoughts on the back of this page.

For each of the Scripture passages, ask the following questions:

- ***What is the command given in this passage?***
- ***What would it look like here in this church if we practiced this as written - give at least two concrete examples?***
- ***How would an unchurched friend respond if they saw this kind of behavior?***

Romans 14:13; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:32; Ephesians 5:21; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 10:24-25; James 5:16; 1 Peter 4:9; John 13:34-35

What I Believe: Take ten minutes for silent reflection and thought. Ask yourself what you believe about how we should treat one another. Use the back of this page to formulate a response to the question:

“How should we treat one another?”

Write your final response here: _____

Articulations: Pair up with one other person and share your response with one another. Take five minutes each. Try to *not* look at your written statement; instead, try to tell your beliefs from your heart. This will prepare you to share whenever you are asked about what you believe.

Therefore: Jesus said His followers should Go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). One of the first steps in making disciples is being ready and able to share the reason for the hope we have (1 Peter 3:15), in other words, knowing what we believe, why, and then being able to share it. Sharing your faith is important. This week, find someone—it can be *anyone*—and articulate your belief about this issue. If you have an unchurched/unreached friend whom you can share with, all the better (you can always say you have a homework assignment from church and you'd like to share it with them). Be ready to talk about your experience next week over the meal at your House Church.