

I Want To Be Like You

Have you ever questioned things? Wondering if what you believe (and in my case, what I teach) is truth? In a recent Sunday morning class, a question was asked regarding whether or not **“admonishing one another” (Romans 15:14)** is a salvation issue. On the one hand, I firmly believe that how we love one another can and will play a role in God’s account of us (Romans 14:12). But that thought must be tempered, for we serve a merciful and patient God. The one another verses paint a picture of how God wants us to be. He knows (and I should know) we are and will continue to be a work in progress (2nd Peter 1:5-11) until we go home to be with Him. His only desire is that we progress in that work to be Christ like. That being said, I have come to also realize that viewing God strictly as the “Judge” who is painstakingly watching our every move, to see if we are living up to the standard, is unbalanced and spiritually unhealthy. We need to see the hope of His grace and mercy while we gaze into the **“perfect law of liberty” (James 1:25)**.

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
Galatians 5:13

As I was preparing the chapter entitled, Serve One Another in our study book, the following words stood out to me, **“through love serve one another.”** The whole of this “one another” study can be summed up in this simple reality, to do these things (live out the one another verses) is to be like God. Our bibles teach us that “God is love” (1st John 4:8) and that we are to seek to imitate Him (Ephesians 5:1); that is, be like Him. Gene Getz writes, “Love, as it is defined in Scripture, is the guiding principle in all Christian relationships, including the process of serving one another.” The “one another” verses reveal to us God-like love; that is, how godly love is to be revealed or witnessed in our lives. So, I am compelled to ask a seemingly foolish question; that is, who wants to be like God? Is this not the purpose of personal transformation? Paul says that the renewing of the mind is so we can **“be able to know what things are good and pleasing to God and what things are perfect” (Romans 12:2, ETRV)**. When we come to know these things, and seek to abide in them, are we not being God like?

So, it is here that my thoughts culminate. What if I saw the “one another” verses in God’s word as God revealing to us (to me), how I can be like Him? View them as opportunities to grow in His likeness, with the understanding that God knows I need to grow, and accepts me as I am, as I seek to grow. What if the driving force behind learning these things were less about escaping judgment, and more about becoming like Him, because He lives in me now? Maybe that would help us to see with greater clarity our need to serve one another. I just want to be like Him.

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