

Building A Strong Community – With One Another

Philippians 2:1-5 NLT

*"¹Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? ²Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with **each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.** ³Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. ⁵You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had."*

I. How do people in the community know we are Christ disciples?

- Is it because we love as **Christ** loved us?
- Is it because we love one another?
- Is it because we **celebrate** one other?
- Is it because we give **priority** to one another?

John 13:34-35 (NLT) says, *"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."*

Our love of God flows to **brotherly** love.

Consider: *1 John 4:20*

Romans 12:10 (AMP) says, *"Love one another with brotherly affection [as members of one family], giving precedence (preference or priority) and showing honor to one another."*

- Christ give a new standard of love (selfless and servant like)
- Of genuine service

Consider: *Matthew 6:1-4, Galatians 5:13*

II. Exhorting and encouraging one another

- To exhort means to beseech, comfort, encourage, to inspire, to incite
- To encourage means: stir hope, to give help, strength of purpose, to raise one's confidence

Hebrews 3:13 (NKJ) says, *"but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."*

Consider: *Hebrews 3:12-15, Hebrews 10:24-25, 1 Thessalonians 5:11-15*

III. Leadership Lessons from Nature - Wisdom of Wolves

Teamwork:

- Not every member of the pack aspires to be the boss.
- Some prefer to be steady hunters, caretakers, or scouts
- But each has a crucial role to play as a part of the team

Patience:

- Wolves do not aimlessly choose to harass their prey. They are content to be keen observers analyzing the physical and mental state of the caribou herd.
- They don't simply attack and be done with it because one well-placed hoof of a caribou can kill a member of the pack.
- The wolf seeks long term victory rather than short-term success.

Play:

- Wolves are very social animals that draw strength from physical contact from one another.
- Play refines their skills of communication and teamwork.
- It also plays a practical way establishing and reassessing the pecking order of the pack.
- They become physically stronger and mentally tougher through play.

Communication:

- Wolves don't rely upon any single form of communication. They howl, nuzzle, lick, and use intricate body language including lips, eyes and tail position.
- When on the attack for food the situation changes by the second and the wolves' communication techniques allow them to constantly adjust their strategy achieve success.

Loyalty:

- No other mammal shows more spirited devotion to its family, organization or social group than the wolf.
- A wolf's purpose for existing is to ensure the survival of the pack.
- Where pups are concerned each member of the pack assumes the responsibility for food, shelter, training, protection, and play.
- Because the pack always knows the young are our future.

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