

The Power Of Mutual Care

Introduction. There is power in us being together — that is why God put us together! God’s plans are always perfect; and God has established a plan for each of us. God’s plan for us is His church, and as part of this local congregation we can fulfill all of the requirements of worship and service to God.

By involving ourselves in the church we are able to discover great blessings. There is no self-serving or selfishness in mutual care. I benefit from your care and you benefit from my care; and neither of us will be short-changed. Let’s discover together some great blessings we receive in the power of mutual care.

I. The Power Of Mutual Involvement

- A. According to the Bible, we are to be an undivided group. We are to be united in truth with no divisions. We are to be perfectly joined together with the same mind and the same judgment (1 Corinthians 1:10; 12:25; Philippians 1:27; 2:2).
- B. The Bible also tell us to be a mutually involved group. We do our share (Ephesians 4:11-16). We care for one another (Romans 12:9-15). We spread the gospel and edify the saints (Mark 16:15-16; Romans 14:19).
- C. The power of mutual involvement only works if we see ourselves as part of this effort. It is easy to convince yourself that you do not matter, but you do! There is a need for what you supply.
 1. God knows our ability and expects us to live up to it (Matthew 25:15). When we have the ability we should use it (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Peter 4:11).
 2. The Lord continuously reinforced that from the least to the greatest we are all part of His work. He spoke of differing levels of ability in the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:8). We are part of this work when we are young in the faith, and we are part of this work if our potential is 30, 60, or 100.

II. The Power Of Mutual Edification

- A. According to the Bible, we know this congregation is our oasis from the world. There are many pressures from which we need a break. There are temptations (James 1:13-15; 1 John 2:15-17), peer pressures (1 Corinthians 15:33; 1 Peter 4:1-5), and various trials (1 Peter 1:6-9).
- B. As brethren we are to be “kindly affectionate to one another” (Romans 12:10). We are to be “patient” and “comforting” (Romans 15:5). We are to be “gentle, patient, bearing with one another in love” (Ephesians 4:2). We are to be “kind, tenderhearted, and

forgiving" (Ephesians 4:32). We are to "love one another" (1 Thessalonians 4:9). We are to "comfort" and "edify" one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

- C. We must be present to provide the needs of Hebrews 10:24-25. To "consider one another" — to see, to hear, to express concern immediately, we must be here. To "provoke unto love" — to respond to their needs, to support, encourage, and direct, we need to be here. To "provoke unto good works" — often a delayed response to need is too late. Mutual edification only works if we are present and providing. We cannot rightly say that we only encourage each other in this meeting place, however, our presence is crucial to meeting this need.

III. The Power Of Mutual Exhortation

- A. According to the Bible, exhortation is a calling near for correction or continuation, and as a congregation we need to be involved in both. There is a time to evaluate (judge) one another for betterment. We must judge only with "righteous judgment" (John 7:24); that is, according to the word of God, which is profitable for proper judgment or reproof (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- B. It is beneficial to practice corrective exhortation. In doing so we can gain back our brother (Matthew 18:15-17), we can restore one to Christ (Galatians 6:1-5), and we can save a soul (James 5:19-20).
- C. Once corrected, we need encouragement to continue so we do not become "hardened" and "deceived" by sin (Hebrews 3:12-14). So that we "hold fast our faith" (Colossians 1:19-23). So we receive "the end of your faith, even the salvation of our souls" (1 Peter 1:6-9).
- D. Mutual exhortation requires a true standard — not just opinions, but the truth of God's word (John 17:17), a devotion to each other — love one another enough to want what is best (John 13:34-35), and a willingness to humbly accept exhortations as well as we humbly offer them (Hebrews 13:20-22)!

Conclusion. God's plans are always perfect. Are you a part of God's plan? There are blessings awaiting your obedience. In Christ and in His church, every spiritual blessing will be yours (Ephesians 1:3). Why are you waiting? Accept this exhortation; obey the gospel right now!