

Our Call to Care like Jesus

The local church is God's chosen place for care. So, how we care really matters if the community of believers is the best place to get help.

1. Our Call to Care – the church family is our community to care.

“And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.” 1 Thessalonians 5:14

This one verse speaks to three groups of people who need to be loved and cared for:

- *admonish the idle* –
- *encourage the fainthearted* –
- *help the weak* –

Overall, we are to *be patient with them all* –

This calls for relationships, living life with others, so we can begin to understand them personally and care for them intentionally. This calls us into action to demonstrate love and compassion like Jesus.

2. Our call to care – living out the “one-anothers”.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34-35

Sacrifice is rooted in love. Our ability to care for others is rooted and fueled by our understanding of the love Christ has for us.

“The one-anothers *represent* the life of Christ at work in the people of Christ to glory of Christ”¹.

Four characteristics on how we can C.A.R.E. like Jesus.

C _____ = love in action.

A _____ = forging unity.

R _____ = purposeful living.

E _____ = conforming truth.

¹ <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-art-of-one-anothering>

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Reflection Questions:

1. Which of these 'one another' scriptures do you naturally demonstrate in your relationships? Which one's are most difficult for you? Explain.
2. Which of these 'one another' scriptures have you experienced the most from others? Which one's do you currently desire more of?
3. Who are the people in your life that you are currently called to care for?
4. Within the four characteristics of C.A.R.E. like Jesus, what are practical ways you can live this out to the people you listed above?
5. Read Colossians 3:12-17. As you reflect on the three one-anothers in this passage, write out a prayer to ask the Holy Spirit to help you live these out in your life and to help you grow in the godly character you are to put on as a believer with purpose to glorify God in all you do.
6. Read the narratives Samaritan woman (John 4:1-42), Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10), Prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32), woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11), parable of good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), and Mary & Martha (Luke 10:38-42). In what ways do you see Jesus caring for them by showing compassion, practicing accountability, being relational, and through edification. What other passages do you think of where you see Jesus caring in this way?