



SPUR ONE ANOTHER ON ... WEEK 6

Welcome to week 6 of the **ONE ANOTHERS!** Thank you for joining us and I'm so glad you're here. I read a quote this week that reminded me of the importance of studying the **ONE ANOTHERS** ... "When everyone is sitting in rows, you can't do any one anothers." Yes! This is such a great reminder of the purpose of the body of Christ in regard to each other. We don't "go" to Church, we **ARE** the Church, and He has called us to love and serve one another and live in unity. We are called to be intentional about "one anothering." I pray that as we study these, the Holy Spirit plants them deep in our hearts and we continually look for ways to "one another" better within our Church communities, as well as to those outside of the Church, showing them what it means to be unified and love like Christ. Let's do this!

This week's **ONE ANOTHER** will be taken from Hebrews 10:24, "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." (NIV) There are a few more translations that I like:

"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works." (NLT)

"Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works." (KJV)

"Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works" (NKJV)

I will be using the NIV because I love the words "consider" and "spur on" but for your memory verse, please choose whichever translation helps you remember it best. The words "provoke" and "stir" are both great too. So let's pray and get started, shall we?

1. Read Hebrews 10:19-25 to get our verse in context. Write your thoughts.
What's the general idea of the passage as a whole?

Throughout the book of Hebrews, the author focuses on the superiority of Christ overall, including the Old Testament prophets, the angels, and everything and everyone else, especially the Judaic system. To reference and quote my Bible Commentary, “Christ is better than the angels, for they worship Him. He is better than Moses, since He created him. He is better than the Aaronic priesthood, for His sacrifice was once and for all. He is better than the Law, for He mediates a better covenant. In short, there is more to be gained in Christ than to be lost in Judaism. Pressing on in Christ produces tested faith, self-discipline, and a visible love seen in good works.” The chapters in Hebrew discuss the superiority of Christ in His personhood and His work. After setting the doctrine, in chapter 10 the author begins to focus on the believer’s practical walk of faith and how that faith should shape and define how they live.

In chapter 10, the author connects the ritual worship and sacrifices of Israel to the work of Jesus, the perfect sacrifice. The Most Holy Place could only be entered by the High Priest once a year, and the people did not have direct access to God, but now they could, through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

2. Read Hebrews 10:24-25 together. What other “one another” do you find?
How do these verses reinforce the need to be together?
3. Explain verse 24 in your own words. What are we exactly called to do?

4. What does the phrase “spur each other on” mean? How does this particular one another provide opportunity for the practice of many other one anothers?

5. Many people use the phrase “I am not my brother’s keeper” to justify their self-absorbent attitude. There seems to be two “directives” in this verse. What are they?

I'll be honest. I was blown away when I first realized that I'm not only responsible for DOING the one anothers, I'm also called to encourage others to do them as well. Woa. That's my responsibility too? Yep, sure is. I am not responsible if they actually live them out, that's their deal. But I am responsible for coming alongside others to “spur” them on, meaning, to prompt, encourage, or provide incentive to someone. Officially it means “to incite to action or accelerated growth or development.” This, my friends, is a big deal.

6. Write your thoughts or feelings about this responsibility.

The next directive in our verse is to “consider how” to spur them on. The word “consider” means “to think carefully about before making a decision.” This means we need to think about, strategize, meditate on, and how to plan to do the first directive. Another “woa.”

7. Can you write your thoughts on that? What do you think that means? Why must we be so intentional?

8. Ok, let's get practical. First, what are some loving and good deeds that we can spur others on to do? Give some examples. **What** can that look like? Spend some time pondering this and then brainstorm together in your group. (Focus on the **WHAT**.)

9. Now let's focus on the **HOW**. What are some ways we can do this? What kind of plans can you make to do this? How can the **HOW** be different according to the person's personality or relationship with you? Does it have to be formal or informal? Do they have to know you're intentionally doing that?

10. Hebrews 3:13 and 1 Thessalonians 5:11 tell us to encourage one another. How does encouragement tie into this one? How is it similar? How is it different?

11. Sometimes we struggle with jealousy or envy when we see good in someone else's life. Why is that? If we let that get in the way, we can't fully practice the one anothers, especially encouragement. Do you ever struggle with this? What's the remedy?

12. Reflect for a moment. Are you a natural encourager or is it something you struggle with, for whatever reason? How can you strategize and make a plan to overcome that so you can become more of an encourager?

13. I think one of the most important ways to “spur” or stimulate others to love and good works is to model them yourself. Read 1 Cor 4:16, 1 Cor 11:1, Philippians 3:17, and Titus 2:7-8. What does Paul have to say about this? Explain how this works.

14. I think we clearly see this principle in parenting. I read that Hebrews 10:24 can be called “A clear strategy for childhood development.” What do you think that means? Why is modeling behavior so important?

15. I’m going to give a few of my own examples just to illustrate my point. How can living a life of generosity motivate others to be more generous?

16. How can “bearing someone’s burdens” help someone else do the same? What about forgiving others? As we practice the one anothers, how might that spur someone else on?

17. Who has spurred you on or motivated you into love and good deeds? Who has been a pattern for you to follow as far as learning to live a Godly and faithful life?

18. We always seem to look at the issue of comparing as a negative thing, but, in this instance, how can it be beneficial?

19. How can we “discourage” others in their faith by both our lifestyle or our choices? What happens when our walk doesn’t line up with our talk, so to speak?

20. If you’re a leader in any way, how does Hebrews 10:24 challenge you? Also read Ephesians 4:11-12.

21. One commentator said that one of the ways to spur one another on is to simply teach the one anothers. I think this can mean actually sharing them as well as modeling them. There's a phrase, I read, used among surgeons in training ... "Hear one; see one; do one." How can we use this strategy in teaching others how to do the one anothers?

22. It is said that one of the most frequently mentioned one anothers is to encourage one another. **Name some practical ways to encourage people.** Then pray and ask the Lord to show you, today, who needs some encouragement. How can it change the trajectory of someone's day or lift their spirits?

I have a little note in my Bible that a friend stuck in there years ago. It was written on a piece of an old bulletin, torn in half. It simply says, "I Love You My Sis" with a big smiley face. I've kept it in my Bible for years and randomly, as I'm reading, it pops up. It's usually right at the moment when I'm feeling down, or "not" loved," and the note just makes me smile, reminding me that I'm loved by God, as well as my friend. That little note of encouragement that took her 20 seconds to write has changed my heart's focus many times. Can we all do that for someone?

Jill Briscoe wrote, "Be encouraged to be an encourager. It's a spiritual art everyone can learn. And mostly we learn by practicing it."

23. I have to touch on this last point. How can our words be used to stir up others to do good deeds, or stir them up to anger or strife? Read and compare Proverbs 15:1 with 2 Timothy 1:13.

24. What do you find most interesting, challenging, convicting, or encouraging from this one another?

25. How can you plan to put this one into practice this week? How about asking a friend to be your partner and practice together?

Have a great week. Don't forget to work on your memory verse, but not just to recite it, but to hide His Word down deep in your hearts!

(Psalm 119:11)