

Gateways



Learning to walk as Jesus did

Gateways: Community

Three Big Concerns:

1. We make this about the destination not the journey.
2. That we do not confuse walking like Jesus in obedience with earning our salvation
3. You would avoid being here or learning truth due to discomfort or unwillingness for change

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Last Week:

God's Design

N.T. Full of Evidence

- 50 passages on nature of church
- 21 'one another' instructions

Meant to evidence to the world and one another relationship with God

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1. Biblical Community is Different

- common to experience some community around:
 - shared interests and passions
 - common life stages and experience
- Biblical community – Christ as the common center

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Gal 3:26-28 “So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

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- we are all sinners saved by grace
- **Rom 3:22-24** “This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

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- Paul on earning it... **Phil 3:4-9**

...though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

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⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ
⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.”

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2. Biblical Community Is Messy

- difference between expectations and reality
----- disappointment
- reality – we are all flawed and being refined. Doing life together will have bumps and bruises – part of the process for refining us all

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James 4:1-3 “What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? ² You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”

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1 Cor. 1:10-11 “I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. ¹¹ My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe’s household have informed me that there are quarrels among you.”

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Gal 6:1 “Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted”

Phil 2:3 “³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

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Phil 4:2-3 “I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.”

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- not all mature, or all the same
- God uses us to refine one another
- Must have a view of community that allows:
 - offence and failure
 - forgiveness and reconciliation
 - embrace of those different from ourselves

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3. Biblical Community Lives Like This

a) Accepting one Another

- Rom. 15:5-7 “May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶ so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

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b) encouraging one another

- Heb 10:24-25 “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching”

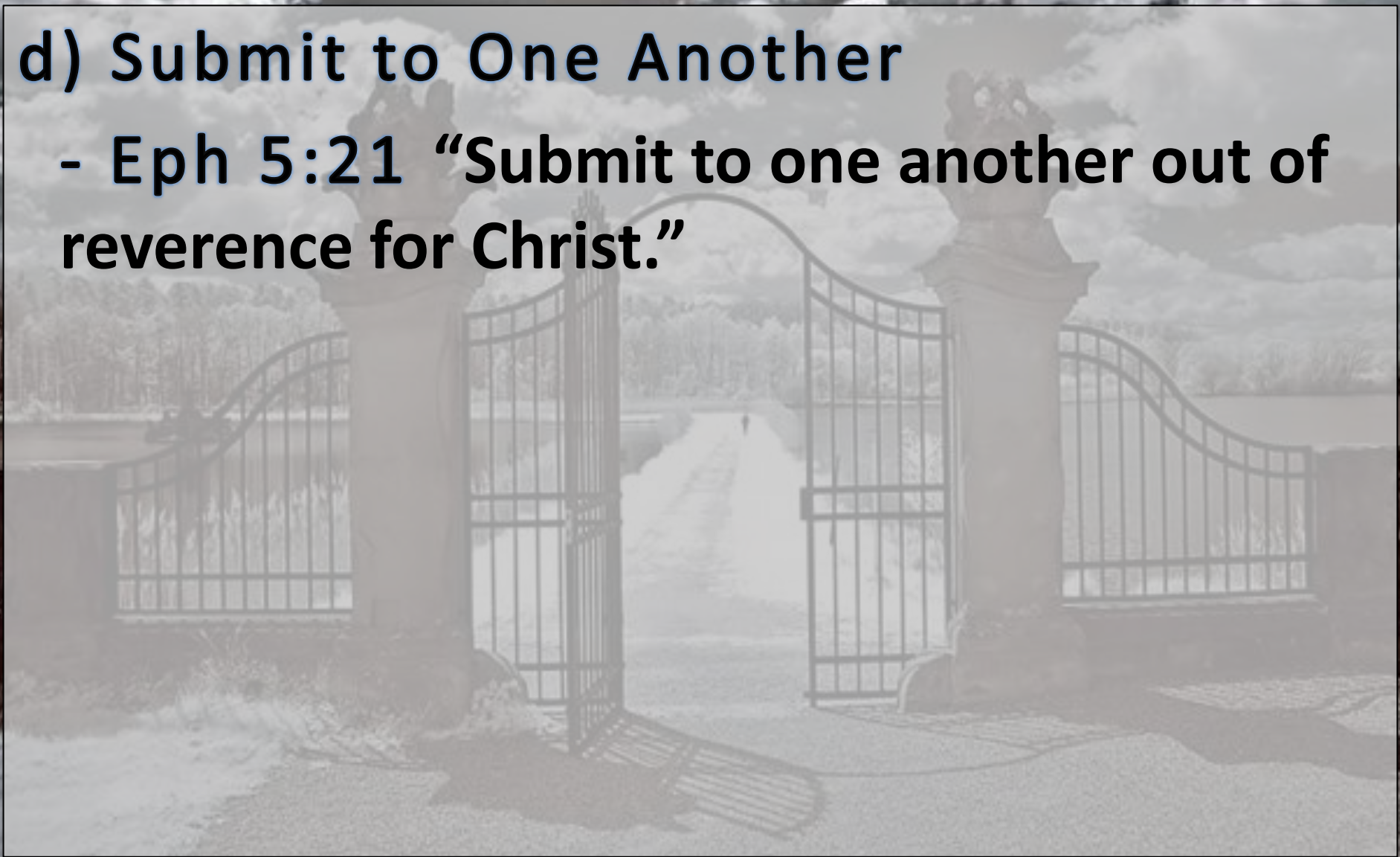
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- c) Bear with & Forgiving One Another
- Col 3:13-15 “Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

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d) Submit to One Another

- Eph 5:21 “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”



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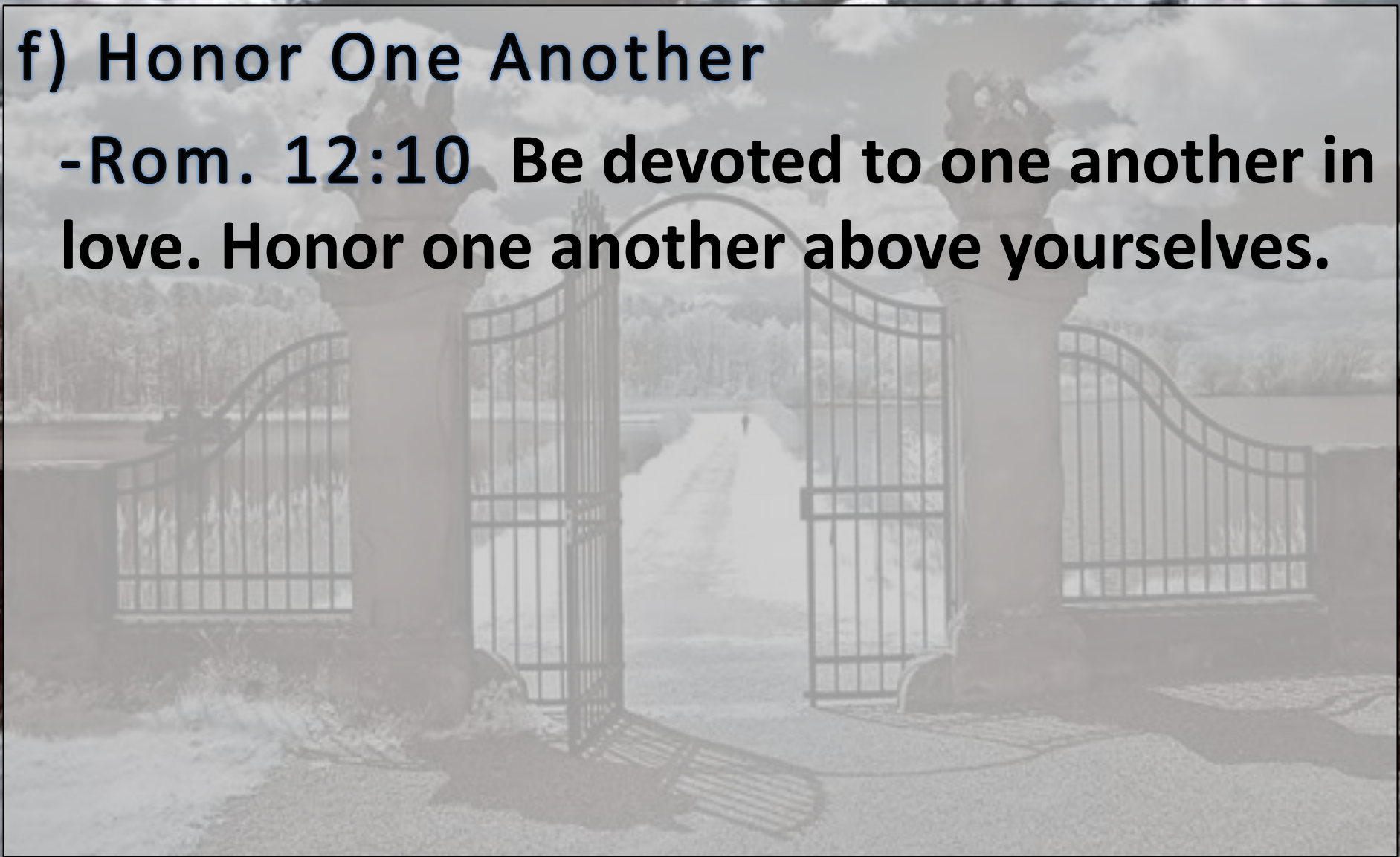
e) Serve One Another

- Gal 5:13-15 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

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f) Honor One Another

-Rom. 12:10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.



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So What

1. It's Decision Time

- with eyes wide open
- knowing it's God's design and desire for you
- will you in obedience make a commitment to live in community?

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2. Make Yourself Accountable

- determine to tell someone today
- give them permission to check

3. Choose a Gateway

- community group
- study group
- making an appointment with pastors to make a plan that works

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4. Persevere

- if you have given up – start again
- if you are disillusioned – give it to God
- determine to keep going

