
**CHAPTER 14 : A BIBLICAL PATTERN
FOR CARE WITHIN LIVE THE LIFE**

Quote *“The greatest disease of the 21st century will be loneliness.” (Mother Theresa)*

Quote “The development of meaningful relationships where every member carries a significant sense of belonging is central to what it means to be the church. This is a God ordained gathering that is so strong even “The gates of hell will not overcome it.”

Quote *“The early Christians understood that the decision to follow Christ included also making a decision to make the church the hub of their world. For Pauline converts to be ‘baptised in Jesus Christ’ meant an extraordinary thoroughgoing resocialization, in which the sect was intended to become virtually the primary group for it’s members.”*

Read 1 John 2:28-3:18

LOVE. 1 John 3:10-18	
Characteristics of love	Response of love
Brotherly love (10).	Origin is of God (10).
Unlike Cain (11, 12).	Will not lead to murder (11, 12).
Hated by the world (13).	Not to be surprised (13).
Brotherly love (14).	Proof of having passed from death to life (14).
No hate (15).	Not a murderer and has life (15).
Lays down life for others (16)	Knows love in its essence (16).
Shares goods (17, 18).	Love of God dwells in him (17, 18).

Here are some examples of the variety of subjects Paul wrote on to the churches showing they must live out their faith in community and in care for one another:

Unity, Purity with our bodies, lawsuits, marriage, divorce, death, widows, singleness, church gatherings, reconciling with each other, giving money generously, not living as servants by sons and daughters, children with their parents and parents with their children, slaves with their masters and masters with the slaves, poor and the rich, thanking friends, asking friends to help each other, how to chose leaders, older women teaching young women, older men teaching younger men

*The ultimate biblical foundation for care in the church (one another to one another) is: “**God cares for us.**”*

Structure for care: A Biblical pattern in caring for another:

1) God: 1 Peter 5:

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

The omnipotent ruler of the universe cares for you. God is jealous to care for the bride of his son.

2) Jesus:

(The care purchaser and care giver) John 10:11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.”

3) Elders and deacons: 1 Tim 3:5 “manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church...”

In Acts 6 we see deacons caring for the people in the church. The bible states very clearly that elders are called to care for the people of the local church as the deacons come alongside them.

What should elders be doing?

Acts 20:25-31

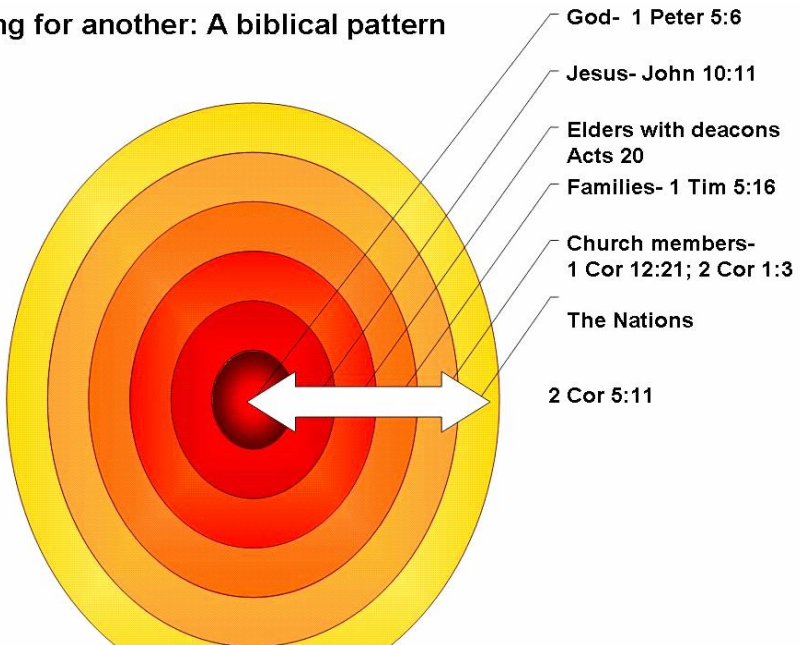
- 1) Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock
- 2) Be shepherds of the church
- 3) Be on your guard
- 4) Remember what you have heard
- 5) We need to be fathers to the people
- 6) Elders need to lead in a time of difficulty

4) Families: 1 Tim 5:16 “If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are really widows.” Families are the first responsibilities to give care. If families aren’t there to care then the church steps in.

5) Members of the church caring for each other: (This is largely what we do in small groups, called our Life Groups.) 1 Cor 12:21 “The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty,²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it,²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”

2 Cor 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.⁵ For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

Caring for another: A biblical pattern



Biblical care verses self-absorbed care:

- Biblical always seeks to point people back to God and not to build them towards ourselves.
- We have been called to the ministry of reconciliation with man and God. That's why we take our care to the world. **2 Cor 5:11**

A broad sweep of the New Testament to see the call for the church to live in Koinonia: (true fellowship)

- *Love one another (Romans 12:10)*
- *Outdo one another in showing honour (Romans 12:10)*
- *Rejoice with one another (Romans 12:15)*
- *Therefore welcome one another (Ro 15:7)*
- *Care for one another (1 Cor 12:25)*
- *Comfort one another (2 Cor 13:11)*
- *Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)*
- *Carry one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)*
- *Submitting to one another (Eph 5:21)*
- *Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32)*

- *Teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Col 3:16)*
- *Exhort one another every day (Heb 3:13)*
- *Stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together (Heb 10:24)*
- *Confess our sins to one another (James 5:16)*
- *Pray for one another (James 5:16)*

So, are some practical suggestions on how we can better care for one another:

1. Speaking. Proverbs 16:24 says, “Pleasant words are ... sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.” The number of ways we can encourage one another through our speech is almost limitless. One way is to recognize verbally the positive qualities in others’ lives.

2. Writing. The New Testament epistles are proof of the power of written communication. Sometimes a short note to someone who’s discouraged can mean so much. Think creatively. SMS, notes, cards

3. Being present. “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted,” says Psalm 34:18. Sometimes God asks us simply to be with others in person on his behalf. We don’t have to speak much; our presence itself can be a deeply encouraging gift.

4. Listening: Attentively, actively, showing empathy rather than sympathy. Gal 6:2 “Bear one another’s burdens...”

5. Praying. “You also must help us by prayer,” Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 1:11. Everyone can have this ministry.

6. Showing hospitality. “seek to show hospitality,” says Romans 12:13. The Greek word for hospitality denotes “brotherly love of strangers.” Practicing biblical hospitality means reaching out to the “emotional strangers” who need to experience the heartfelt compassion that comes with the extra plate on the table.

7. Giving. “Whoever has a bountiful eye will himself be blessed,” says Proverbs 22:9. God wants his people to share their lives with others—their time, their money, their possessions. Any of these can be used creatively to encourage others.

8. Helping. Common jobs—housework, repairing, , baby-sitting—become holy in the ministry of encouragement. “Whatever you do,” says Colossians 3:23, “work at it heartily, as working for the Lord, not for men.”

**So much of this is lived out through the Life Groups
So how can we start today to walk in this kind of
“Fellowship”?**

**When we are passionate we want to sign up. WE WANT TO
PARTNER, WE WANT TO SHARE, WE WANT TO STEWARD .**

**Let’s hear how Paul describes his affections and care for the
Thessalonian church in 1 Thes 2:19**

¹⁹ For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? ²⁰ For you are our glory and joy.

We pray that through this study on care you would become a conduit for Gods care to others through your own life. Make it your prayer to ask God to free you self-centred self-absorbed living which would prevent you from living life for the benefit of others. Ask God to make you big hearted to the needs and hurts of others and so become a reconciler between men and women and their need to be united with God. Our ultimate care giver.

(Notes taken from a preaching series by Nathan Gernetzky entitled “Unconditional love for one another.”)