



# One Another-ing

“One another” is two words in English, but it's only one word in Greek: ἀλλήλων (*ah-LAY-loan*). It's used in 100 times in 94 New Testament verses. 47 of those verses give instructions to the church, and 60% of those instructions come from Paul.

**Kissy-kissy?** Yes! Four of the “one another” commands are about kissing.

There are a few more common themes that show up in the New Testament however.

**Unity.** One third of the one-another commands deal with the unity of the church.

1. Be at peace with one another ([Mk 9:50](#))
2. Don't grumble among one another ([Jn 6:43](#))
3. Be of the same mind with one another ([Ro 12:16](#), [15:5](#))
4. Accept one another ([Ro 15:7](#))
5. Wait for one another before beginning the Eucharist ([1 Co 11:33](#))
6. Don't bite, devour, and consume one another—**seriously, guys, don't eat each other** ([Ga 5:15](#))
7. Don't boastfully challenge or envy one another ([Ga 5:26](#)).
8. Gently, patiently tolerate one another ([Ep 4:2](#))
9. Be kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving to one another ([Ep 4:32](#))
10. Bear with and forgive one another ([Co 3:13](#))
11. Seek good for one another, and don't repay evil for evil ([1 Th 5:15](#))
12. Don't complain against one another ([Jas 4:11](#), [5:9](#))
13. Confess sins to one another ([Jas 5:16](#))

**Love.** One third of them instruct Christians to love one another.

1. Love one another ([Jn 13:34](#), [15:12](#), [17](#); [Ro 13:8](#); [1 Th 3:12](#), [4:9](#); [1 Pe 1:22](#); [1 Jn 3:11](#), [4:7](#), [11](#); [2 Jn 5](#))
2. Through love, serve one another ([Ga 5:13](#))
3. Tolerate one another in love ([Ep 4:2](#))
4. Greet one another with a kiss of love ([1 Pe 5:14](#))
5. Be devoted to one another in love ([Ro 12:10](#))

**Humility.** About 15% stress an attitude of humility and deference among believers.

1. Give preference to one another in honor ([Ro 12:10](#))
2. Regard one another as more important than yourselves ([Php 2:3](#))
3. Serve one another ([Ga 5:13](#))
4. Wash one another's feet ([Jn 13:14](#))
5. Don't be haughty: be of the same mind ([Ro 12:16](#))
6. Be subject to one another ([Ep 5:21](#))
7. Clothe yourselves in humility toward one another ([1 Pe 5:5](#))

**Here's the rest:**

1. Do not judge one another, and don't put a stumbling block in a brother's way ([Ro 14:13](#))
2. Greet one another with a kiss ([Ro 16:16](#); [1 Co 16:20](#); [2 Co 13:12](#))
3. Husbands and wives: don't deprive one another of physical intimacy ([1 Co 7:5](#))
4. Bear one another's burdens ([Ga 6:2](#))
5. Speak truth to one another ([Ep 4:25](#))
6. Don't lie to one another ([Co 3:9](#))
7. Comfort one another concerning the resurrection ([1 Th 4:18](#))
8. Encourage and build up one another ([1 Th 5:11](#))
9. Stimulate one another to love and good deeds ([He 10:24](#))
10. Pray for one another ([Jas 5:16](#))
11. Be hospitable to one another ([1 Pe 4:9](#))

Of course, Jesus and the apostles give many more instructions to the church; these "one another" passages are a good start, though.

**Also: make sure you read these in context!** These commands come from Jesus, Peter, John, Paul, and James, and they're scattered across the New Testament. Don't just stop at this list: dig into these passages to see what the author was talking about.

One more note on the kissing: check out the cultural settings of these verses before planting one on your pastor's cheek next weekend.