

NOVEMBER

2009

Keeping TABS*



Single Adult Ministry Newsletter
First Baptist Church, San Antonio, TX

*Twenty and Better
Singles

You are cordially invited to the Ordination of
Rick Evans
Sunday, November 8, during the evening service
A reception will follow in Unity Hall.

No Sunday School November 15



Hanging of the Green

November 21 — 10:00 am - Noon
West 260
Bring A Snack

November 29 — Noon - 6:00pm
In the Sanctuary
Come help prepare the church for
Christmas. Lunch provided



November Birthdays

Nov 5	Mickey Brietzke
Nov 9	Virginia Hunter
Nov 10	Paula Lasater
Nov 11	Edward Rodriguez
Nov 18	John Stervinou
Nov 19	David Garcia
Nov 23	Rick Evans
Nov 29	Paul Hadler



Happy
Thanksgiving

Side-by-Side

A New Class for Single Ladies
9:30 am West 262B

The “One Another”s

When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, “You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?” Gal. 2:14

I just can’t get over my fascination with that part of the New Testament we sometimes refer to as “the one-another”s. You know—love, serve, confess sin to, be devoted to, honor, encourage, and so forth. I’ve thought for several years that if I ever had a music group, I would name it “The ‘One Another’ s”. We would write all these songs about stuff like that. But if we were going to be true to the Bible, our music couldn’t just be the feel-good album of the summer. It would have to delve into the harder-edged “one another”s, the ones that don’t sound so nurturing: Admonish one another, spur one another on, instruct one another, teach one another, build each other up. Those definitely have more of a bite to them. We’d probably make these into hard rock music tunes.

None of the “one another”s are for the faint of heart, but admonishing, spurring on, building each other up, that’s just sounds kind of like drill instructor territory. I met a drill instructor the other night. As I was talking to him, I discovered that his aim is to shape young recruits into the best, most courageous, confident, and dedicated team players they can because his heart is for them.

Anyway, this is what Paul does with Peter here. He confronts him. There is conflict, and it is unpleasant, and it could all go south. The stakes are high, because the calling of Christ doesn’t do anything less than bid a man come and die. If Paul shied away from this conversation, a two-faced mutated strain of koinonia would have continued to grow into a calloused, cynical, politicized form of Christianity which could be learned like a fine skill for manipulating people and influencing events to get done whatever the group in power wants done. Well, that strain of Christianity is alive and well, sadly, but it didn’t grow from this incident that Paul describes. The reason it didn’t is that Paul, prompted by the Holy Spirit, forged ahead with his difficult assignment to point out to Peter that his ethnically-charged yet unspoken protocol flew in the face of the Lord who told the woman at the well that the time was coming and had now come when ethno-political divides would crumble in the path of the divine conspiracy that Christ was calling all people to join. This conspiracy would subvert the world systems and create a community of loving persons who filtered their thoughts not through the lens of political or social loyalties, but through the cross and resurrection of the living Christ.

History shows us that it didn’t go south, that Paul’s admonishment of Peter yielded the fruit of love and of the proliferation of the gospel to a lost world. Paul’s tough words came from a heart of nothing less than love, and love is the only legitimate foundation for the harder-edge “one another”s. Love grounds such admonition in the kind of power that brings correction and repentance. But the point is that Paul acted in love when it was easier not to act and just say he loved. What kind of “one another”s are you doing in each others lives—and do they come from a heart of love? That’s a great conversation to have with God . But when it’s time to talk to our brother, no other action will suffice.

Who’s Left to Forgive You?

In community, people stop being impressed with you. And then they start to see that you’re not what you hope they think you are. And then they start to see your faults. And they forgive you. And do you ever need that. We need God’s forgiveness, because his forgiveness is *the only remedy for sin*. And we need that forgiveness reflected in the community around us because our forgiveness of each other is *the only remedy for isolation*. Such forgiveness is how life goes when we love one another. This is the life that people must have or their souls grow exhausted. Love is the point of the gospel. Look at what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13:

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. **5** It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. **6** Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. **7** It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails. **13** And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

How Will We Become the Kind of People Who Love One Another?

Get unplugged from what others think of you. This is why the Pharisees could not love. Jesus often spent time in lonely places, and there he spoke with God and reaffirmed his servanthood. If Jesus needed that, how much more so do we? And remember: Solitude is for the re-engagement of people.

Also, serve one another. This, too, is why the Pharisees could not love. Being served is our default social posture. Jesus listened to people. He asked questions (*Jesus*, of all people!) He performed menial tasks. This is Jesus bringing himself under the rule of the Father so that he may show us how to love one another. When we do that, we live in community with Jesus and with each other.

Bryan Richardson

Useful Link for Single Living – www.lifeway.com — go to Free E-newsletter / adult / single serving

Venture 11:00 am Sunday School

College Contact— Bryan Richardson bryan@fbcsanan.org
Meets in Webb 212

SA 20’s-30’s Contact—John Bell bellbunch@satx.rr.com
Meets in Webb 206

Core 9:30am Sunday School

Following Classes Contact - Rick Evans rick@fbcsanan.org

30’s - 40’s L.I.F.E. Meets in West A **Covenant Class** Meets in West 263 **Prime Solos** (50’s +/-) Meets in West 161
40+ FABS Gather in West 260 and then go to their classrooms at 9:45am
SA 40’s-50’s West 261 **SA 60+ Walker** West 262 **SA 60+ Peck** West 262C **Side-by-Side** West 262B **Marshall Class** West 262A
www.fbcsa.org/singles

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