

To consider my brother's will and honour better and more important than mine.. The desire for one's own honour hinders faith. One who seeks his own honour no longer seeks God's and his neighbours." *Bonhoeffer, Life Together*, p. 95

9. **Greeting ... Be Courteous** (2 Cor 13:12; 1 Cor 16:19- 20; I Pet 5:14)
10. **Serve in Love** (Gal 5:13)  
Many consider their work too important and urgent to allow anything to disturb them. We need to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God, to cross our path and cancel our plans by sending people with claims and petitions. p. 99  
"...it is part of the discipline of humility that we must not spare our hands where it can perform a service and that we do not assume that our schedule is our own to manage, but allow it to be arranged by God." p. 99  
"Only when hands are not too good for deeds of love and mercy in everyday helpfulness can the mouth joyfully and convincingly proclaim the message of God's love and mercy." p. 100
11. **Bear Burden of** (Gal 6:2 cf. 6:1-5)  
Our response to the sins and weaknesses of others reveals our spirituality.  
"He who is bearing others knows that he himself is being borne, and only in this strength can he go on bearing." p. 103
12. **Submit to** (Eph 5:21)
13. **Forebear with** (Col 3:13; Eph 4:2)
14. **Forgive** (Eph 4:32 cf. Matt 6:12; 18:15-35)  
In bearing with us God, maintains fellowship with us. It is the fellowship of the cross to experience the burden of others. "To bear the burden of another person means involvement with the created reality of the other, to accept and affirm it, and, in bearing with, to break through to the point where we take joy in it." *Life Together*, p. 101  
"To cherish no contempt for the sinner but rather to prize the privilege of bearing him means not to have to give him up as

lost, to be able to accept him, to persevere in fellowship with him through forgiveness." p. 102

15. **Be Kind to** (Eph 4:32; 1 Thes 5:15)
  16. **Look to the Interest** (Phil 2:3-4 cf. 1 Cor 12:25)  
"Never think that thou hast made any progress till thou look upon thyself as inferior to all." *Thomas à Kempis*  
"This is the highest and most profitable lesson, truly to know and to despise ourselves. To have no opinion of ourselves, and to think always well and highly of others, is great wisdom and perfection." *Thomas à Kempis* (Rom 12:3, 16)
  17. **Admonish...Teach** (Col 3:16)
  18. **Encourage...Comfort** (I Thes 4:18; 5:11; Heb 3:13; 10:25 cf. Rom 1:12)
  19. **Build up...Edify** (I Thes 5:11)
  20. **Live in Peace with** (I Thes 5:13)
  21. **Spur to Good Works** (Heb 10:24 cf. Mal 3:16)
  22. **Confess Sins to** (Jas 5:16)
  23. **Pray for** (Jas 5:16)
  24. **Be Hospitable to** (I Pet 4:9 cf. Heb 13:1-3)
- \*\* Negative Commands:**
25. **Do not Bite and Devour** (Gal 5:15)
  26. **Do not Envy or Provoke** (Gal 5:26)
  27. **Do not Judge** (Rom 14:13)
  28. **Do not Hate** (cf. Tit 3:3)
  29. **Do not Grumble** (Jas 5:9)

30. **Do not Slander** (Jas 4:11 cf. 3:1-12)

Nothing is as poisonous to fellowship as the sins of the tongue. In the body every person has his/her particular place. Each is an indispensable link in the chain. Only when the smallest link is securely interlocked is the chain unbreakable. In the Christian community the strong needs the weak and the weak needs the strong, they cannot exist without each other. The elimination of the weak is the death of the fellowship. The fellowship is not dominated by self-justification, but justification by faith and loving service (Rom 12:16) cf. *Bonhoeffer*, p. 94

31. **Do not Deprive ...** Marital privileges (1Cor 7:5)

\*\* *How many more Reciprocal Commands, Ideas or Principles of RECIPROCAL LIVING can you add?*

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*Nov 3, 2001*

## RECIPROCAL COMMANDS

*Reciprocal Commands are the “one another” commands in the New Testament. They instruct and inspire us how to live in community. We need to study and apply these if we are to live as God intended and provided for us to live.*

### Two Types of Reciprocal Commands:

1. *Positive*
2. *Negative*

### Study each Command:

#### Consider its:

- *Exposition.... What does it mean?*
- *Implications... What do I need to consider that is not on the surface?*
- *Illustration... Where have I seen it at work?*
- *Applications...What does it mean to me in my station in life?*

### The Reciprocal (one another & each other) Commands:

1. **Love**  
(Jn 13:34-35; 15:12-17; Rom 12:10; 13:8; Gal 5:13; Eph 4:2; Col 3:14; I Thes 4:9; II Thes 1:3 Heb 10:24-25; 1 Pet 1:22; 4:8; 5:14; I Jn 3:11, 23; 4:7,11-12; II Jn 1:5).  
cf. **Brotherly Love** Heb 13:1
2. **Be Devoted to** (Rom 12:0)
3. **Prefer** (Rom 12:9-10)
4. **Accept** (Rom 15:7)
5. **Live in Harmony...Peace** (Rom 12:16; 15:5-6; Phil 3:15; 4:2; I Pet 3:8)
6. **Instruct** (Rom 15:14)
7. **Use Spiritual Gifts to Serve** (1Cor 12:7; 1 Pet 4:10)
8. **Share with** (2 Cor 8:7, 13-15)