

Fairfield Baptist Church

Morning Service

08.11.2020

‘Caring for Others’

Church and caring for Others

This subject is closely related ‘Love One Another’ - John 13:34-35

A Disclaimer

I am not saying that caring for others is not happening in this church.

It is happening in many many ways.

What I am saying is that the Bible is very clear that caring for each other is very important in the church.

Caring for each other is a foundational function in the church.

Our personal example.

A big thankyou to many good caring people.

We have some great welcomers here in our church.

We started coming to church at the start of lock down.

Two groups welcomed us. Both were operating by Zoom.

A home group and A prayer group.

Both groups now meeting in person.

Also a person from the Pastoral Care Team calls us most weeks.

The home group is on a Wednesday evening.

If you need a home group, there are a number to choose from.

The prayer group is on Monday evening here at church – 7-00p.m.

Also Monday evening at 7.00p.m. a Zoom prayer meeting for those out of town or unable for what ever reason to come to the church to pray.

Contacts

Home Groups	-	Derek
Prayer Groups	-	Prameeta
Pastoral Care Team	-	Simone

We can always talk with Ross our pastor.

We can always talk with Gaylene in the Church office.

Bible Readings

Paul has a lot to say in everything he wrote about what we do for each other.

Romans	15:1-2	Help others
Romans	12:6-18	Honour each other
1 Cor	12:12-13,25-27	members care for each other
Galatians	6:1-5,9-10	Share each other's burdens
		Do good to everyone
Eph	4:11-16	Each part does it's work
Eph	4:30	Be kind and forgiving
Phil	2:1-11	Have the attitude of Christ
Col	3:12-17	Clothe yourselves with love
1 Thess	5:9-11	Encourage each other
1 Timothy	3:14-15	How to conduct yourself in church
	5:8	Care for family
Hebrews	10:23-25	Motivate each other-love+good works
James	2:14-17	Faith and good deeds.
1 John	3:18	Show the truth by our actions
Prov	11:25	Those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

Verses from Ross

Romans 15:1+2

Galatians 6:2 (1-10)

James 2:14-17

1 Tim 3:14-15

The Situation for Us Now.

The church (the body of Christ) has been given ministers/preachers that have the express purpose of “equipping the saints for the work of ministry.”

The types of ministry that the saints are called to, will differ from person to person on account of the fact that they all possess different gifts.

While the types of ministry will differ, the commands to be obeyed in the context of ministry will not differ.

For example, while one may have the gift of service and another has the gift of leadership, both are expected to show forth the love of Christ to others.

We are not exempted from showing care and love for others because of who we are.

Ultimately, our faithfulness to Christ’s commands, affects the health of the body of Christ.

In other words, If we care for others, the church will grow in maturity and unity in Christ.

If we do not care for others, the church will wither and eventually die as a local expression of the body of Christ.

Churches made up of members that do not show genuine care and concern for each other, just will not last, nor do they deserve to last.

They are a terrible testimony to the care and love that God has for us. Such churches do not glorify God.

Churches that do show love and care for each other, will prove to the world that they are Christ’s disciples. This is what Jesus said would happen.

All of this, then, leads to the very important issue, the question:

How do we 'Care for Others?'

How do we care for each other in the context of the church?

Here are several practical ways we can care for others in the church.

Pray for Each Other

This is the most important aspect of our care for others.

When this is consistently practiced, many of the other aspects of care will fall right into place.

1 Peter 4:7

The end of all things is near. Therefore **be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.**

Romans 12:9-18

12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, **faithful in prayer.**

Col 4:2

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Individual Payer

Prayer Groups

Use the church directory.

Pray for five people every day to pray for everyone each month.

Pray for 22 people every day to pray for everyone each week.

Pray for your home group each day.

Pray for your ministry group each day.

Pray for someone you do not know each day.

Make time to pray for people in our Church every day.

1. Lord, help me live from day to day
In such a self-forgetful way
That even when I kneel to pray
My prayer shall be for others.

- *Refrain:*
Yes, others, Lord, yes, others,
Let this my motto be;
Help me to live for others,
Help me to live for others,
That I may live like Thee,
That I may live like Thee.

○

2. Help me in all the work I do
To ever be sincere and true,
And know that all I'd do for You
Must needs be done for others.

3. Let "Self" be crucified and slain
And buried deep: and all in vain
May efforts be to rise again,
Except to live for others.

4. So when my work on earth is done,
And my new work in heav'n's begun,
I'll praise You for the crown I've won,
But praise You more for others.

Explore God with Each Other

Talk about God with Each Other

Think God, talk, pray, sing, read verses

Trust God together

God is completely sovereign.

God is infinite in wisdom.

God is perfect in love.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Talk the Gospel with Each Other – think, talk, pray, sing,

read verses, memorise verses, favourite verses

Romans 6:23, 1 Thess 5:9+10

Appropriate the Gospel every day in their lives, in their thinking.

Tell me and others your favourite Gospel verses

Come to me later on

Two weeks time talking on Personal Evangelism

Talk about Jesus lots

Birth, Life, Death, Resurrection, Ascension, Return

Understand Each Other

Go to the effort to trying to put yourself in the shoes of the person that you are attempting to care for and ask yourself,

“How would I want someone to care for me?”

Making this effort is crucial to our caring ministry.

Communicate with Each Other

Means a lot to people.

Call Them – It takes very little time and is welcomed by most.

A brief phone call reminding them about an event or an opportunity shows that their involvement matters to you.

A handwritten note (these are the best)

an email,

a short text message

Simply letting people know that you are thinking about them means more than we can often imagine.

Listen to Each Other.

Listening is incredibly important and often overlooked when connecting with people.

Admittedly, some people are hard to hold a conversation with, so we have to be creative.

Learn to ask good questions that draw people out. Pay attention to them. Maintain eye contact.

Don't worry about the other conversations going on around you. Be fully engaged and present!

Spend Time with Each Other.

Have a Meal with Each Other

One of the most intimate things human beings do together is enjoying a meal. Whether you take them out to eat or have them over for a home cooked meal, this type of fellowship is simply invaluable.

Help Others Do Something

If you know that there is a need, volunteer to help. Even if you are not able to do too much physically, every little bit helps and will mean a lot to them.

If the need is great, speak with another in the church to help mobilize a team of helpers.

When people with no relationship to the individual show up to help, it testifies to the types of relationships that exist within the church of which we want them to be a part.

Invite Each Other

– Even if you think (or know) they will not come to what you are going to invite them to, invite them anyway.

Don't grow weary. In due season, a harvest will be reaped!

Encourage Each Other

Definition

Eng = To inspire someone with the courage or confidence to do something
To stimulate someone to do something by approval or help.

Greek NT = To urge forward, persuade
To stimulate to the discharge of the ordinary duties of life
Calling to ones aid - to beseech or exhort

Hebrews 10:25

1 Thess 5:11

Therefore **encourage one another**
and build each other up,
just as in fact you are doing.

Plan to Care for Each Other

People do not typically drift into Godliness. It takes effort and planning.

Intend to care for others, then carry out your plan.

Making sure that you plan to care for a particular person and make it a priority.

Don't do anything else until you have fulfilled this priority.

These four examples are just scratching the surface of ways that we can care for others in the context of the church.

Can you think of any other ways to care for people? Share your ideas!

I have had the privilege recently of talking about our church **Pastoral Care Team** with Simone who has recently taken on the leadership of this area of ministry in our church life.

Short interview with Simone.

Questions.

What is the main function of our Pastoral Care Team?

Are we talking about spiritual needs or physical needs?

As church members what can we expect from the team?

How can we best help the Pastoral care Team here at TBC?

Everyone Involved

This is one of the main ideas of the Pastoral Care Team

All have a part in care for each other.

“It’s not what we do in our ministry, it’s who we are as people.”

Think CARE

- This is what we do - As a Christian
- As a Church member

Encourage Someone Every Day.

Make a conscious effort to encourage someone today.

Not just a person you ran into.

Lets all make an effort – think of a person – and do it.

1 Thess 5:11 (Read 1 Thess 5:1-11)

“Encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.”

Jesus is coming back.

The Lord’s return

The ministry of encouragement is open to Christians as it is to no others. Christians have a new life in Christ, an all powerful Holy Spirit to lead them into all truth, and a Heavenly Father who will protect and bless them eternally. If any people anywhere are qualified and equipped to a ministry of positive and healthy encouragement in a desperately discouraging world, it is the Christian church. Christian disciples, Christ said, are the “salt of the earth.” They should make life tasty! They should be, above all else, encouragers.

Derick Bingham

Encouragement – Oxygen for the Soul, Christian Focus, 1997, p. 9. Used by Permission

It takes what I am calling “big-heartedness” for a person to overcome jealousy, envy, division and personality differences to reach out and become an encourager... Genuine, godly love never even looks on another believer’s success as a threat, it looks on it as a blessing. It gets right in there giving all the possible support it can possibly give, immediately.

Derick Bingham

Encouragement – Oxygen for the Soul, Christian Focus, 1997, p. 25-27. Used by Permission.

**Be Encouraged
and
Be an Encourager**

**that you and I may be mutually
encouraged by each other's faith**

No one is hardened by sin's deceitfulness

Heb 3:12-13

See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.

13 But **encourage one another daily**, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Encourage one another daily,

Daily encourage each other in our faith

Daily talking about our faith

Faith must be the most natural subject for us as Christians.

We need to encourage one another daily to identify completely with Christ

Both individual accountability and corporate responsibility are intended in this command.

as long as it is called Today,

"This is the day of divine grace and opportunity to trust in God. It will not last indefinitely.

so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Repeated rejection Christ and His ways results in the progressive hardening of the heart. Sin lies and deceives

The Hebrews deceived themselves that their rejection of Jesus Christ was being faithful to the older system.

Their willingness to hang on to the Levitical system was really a rejection of the “Living God” v12.

The sinful world we live in can harden our hearts against God and His word.