

WEEK 8: THE 'ONE ANOTHERS' IN GOD'S HOUSEHOLD
1 Peter 4:7-11

I. Putting the Pineapple Together

- A. A People...
- B. In exile...
- C. Suffering...
- D. Redeemed and being saved...
- E. Holy...
- F. Who are to do good...

II. A word about the "Household Codes"

III. The "Household Code" for the People of God — Four Exhortations (4:7-11)

- A. Be alert and sober minded so you can pray (v. 7)
 - 1. We are in the last stage of God's plan — stay ready!

 - 2. What distracts us from prayer? What helps us pray urgently and alertly?

- B. Love one another earnestly (v. 8)
 - 1. "Above all" = the most important

 - 2. "Love' is not a warm fuzzy feeling but means treating others in the Christian community in such a way as to promote unity and to avoid or overcome behaviors that destroy relationships." (Karen Jobes, BECNT, 279).

 - 3. What are the behaviors that destroy community? (c.f. 1 Peter 2:1)

 - 4. What gets in the way of us loving each other earnestly? What are ways you've seen love sustain and protect community?

- C. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling (v.9)
1. Arthur Sutherland: Christian hospitality as “the intentional, responsible, and caring act of welcoming or visiting, in either public or private places, those who are strangers, enemies, or distressed, without regard for reciprocation.” (Quoted in Dennis R. Edwards, SGBC, 186).
 2. Included sharing meals, caring for traveling missionaries, caring for worshipers meeting in homes. Practicing hospitality was also an essential characteristic for leaders.
 3. What gets in the way of us showing hospitality? How might we grow in our practice of hospitality (toward one another and in the community)?
- D. Use the gifts you’ve been given (vv. 10-11)
1. Two categories: speaking gifts and servings gifts
 2. What gets in the way of us using our gifts in this community? What gifts might God be wanting to release in the body through you?

IV. **Packing the Suitcase**

- >What have you learned about what it means to be God’s people in this place?
- > How has this series challenged or encouraged you?
- > How do we live in Highwood in such a way that we bring honor & glory to God?