

Getting to Know One Another

I have seen and heard this happening among brethren at different congregations, have you? Some have gone into great deals to form groups or cliques at times and that is the only people we get to know. Then getting to an even more concerning point of not even wanting to get to try to know any more brethren. The place where I was at in my past years had a few people who did not want to have new people in the building with them. Part of the reason was that she would have to get to know someone and what if they are different from me. That is not the way to part of being the Church that Christ built!

Growing up I always took time to get to know people in some sort of way. Sometimes it was through a visit to someone. My parents always took me to places to visit people. Part of it was for those to see children and help cheer someone up. But I know even more it helped me understand more of the need-to-know brethren where I was attending. But another thing I did was I always took time to acknowledge brethren at some point whether before or after services. I would always go and shake hands with my brethren and say hello. Some of these trivial things that mean so much to me and I would want the same.

Also, I want to express another thing to avoid. In my experience I was part of a congregation that the majority did not want to know anybody. When the brethren or visitors came in it was so quiet and nobody took time to get to know one another. Also, when asked about the response by some was "the Bible said I had to love not like them." So, they did not want to know one another and their minds were already made up about one another. Stubbornness has no place in the kingdom of God when we are showing it toward our brethren! Being hard-hearted or having a stiff neck has no benefit!

I want to commend the brethren here for having a desire to get to know each other and I want to continue to challenge each of you to get to know some that you do not know as much about. It is a good practice for each of us to continue to grow with each other and know what we can do to help one another (**Ephesians 4:16**). Also, I want to commend you all on your desire to talk to visitors when we have them to worship. Making sure they feel welcome as we want to get to know them. After all, at times some are here possibly placing membership. But that is not an exact reason to know people we should want to get to know our brethren strengthening each other.

Notice with what Jesus points out in **Matthew 25:34-46**. Doing our part is what we are supposed to do as a Christian. Visiting one another, helping with various needs, and being there for one another. These are simple tasks that can go unnoticed at times and need attention.

Consider what is said in **Romans 12:9-21**. Let us not play the hypocrite! Cling to what is good, and we can trust in God. Show brotherly love, look out for another, give preference to one another. Be persistent. In these efforts and remember to serve the Lord in all things. Again, be hospitable and looking out for saints who may be in need. Know what we can do to help each other in times of sorrow and rejoicing. Be the bigger person even if someone may treat you wrongfully. Work in peace and harmony with one another. Live in peace knowing that for that to happen we must pursue it. If you have enemies, be the bigger person and do not seek revenge. That comes from God! Overcome the evilness (sin) with good (God) in our life!

The new year is still in the beginning stages. 2025 is the year because it is now for us to continue to grow with each other. It is the year for us to get to know each other more. If there are needs among the brethren let us, make sure we are doing our part to relieve it in any way.

We here have made great strides here so far. Let us continue to build on that being of the same mind (**Philippians 3:12-16**). Working toward the goal that God has laid out for us. Let each of us take the extra initiative to get to know someone we may not know as much about and start on that today!

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