

*ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”*

*Acts 2:42-47*

1. New and established Christians set out to spend time with each other
2. Their focus was on worship, caring and sharing their faith
3. It was God who grew the Church—but the setting was in the midst of a community who cared for each other

# Discovering the Bible

LESSON 43    CHRISTIANS CARING FOR EACH OTHER

“Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

*James 5:13-16*

1. Being a Christian involves expressing needs and joys
2. Christians do get sick
3. Prayer is to be sought when you are sick
4. The aim for the prayer is healing and is to be done by the Elders—not necessarily by people with healing gifts
5. Included in the prayer will be confession of sin and a request for forgiveness
6. Righteous people are to do the praying
7. How do we become righteous?

*“But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference.”*

*Romans 3:21,22*

1. The righteousness we need comes from God. It has been made known in the Old Testament of the Bible
2. The basis of righteousness is faith in Christ.

*“ My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.”*

*James 5:19,20*

1. Christians can wander from the truth
2. Bringing someone back into the body depends on keeping and developing personal relationships
3. We are to turn sinners from their sinful ways
4. Is this an act of personal judgement?

*“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”*

*2 Timothy 3:16*

1. The Bible comes from God and has four basic uses
2. Teaching takes place when a person is introduced to a new idea and is shown how to incorporate that idea into normal life
3. Rebuking happens when a person who has been taught fails to follow through with the teaching
4. Correcting extends the teaching and shows a person how to return to the original teaching

5. Training in righteousness develops the original training
6. Could any of this be seen as people being judges?
7. Does the Bible based approach mean that our chance of judging others is reduced?

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”*

*Colossians 3:16,17*

1. We are to teach each other with the result that Christ will dwell in us
2. As we sing we should express gratitude to God
3. We are to do everything we do within a relationship with Jesus and His Father
4. How could we find time in our lives to develop such relationships with each other?

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and*