

“Healthy and Loving Relationships”

We have already established that healthy and loving relationships are always intentional, never accidental. We have also confirmed such relationships are realistic and respectful. And we can never forget that wherever you find healthy, loving relationships, the people therein intend to be responsible. Responsible to care well for one another in ways that are honorable and meaningful.

Perhaps the most meaningful way to do that is to personalize and concretize your love in ways that are relevant and recognizable to the ones God has called you to care for – “consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds.” (Heb 10:24) The Message puts it like this, “...being inventive in encouraging love and helping out...” It might be instructive to us to also consider Romans 5:8; - “God demonstrated His own love for us...” – as our guide. God brought His “unseen” love for us in a very “seen” and demonstrative way, directing His love in Person to our specific core needs, didn’t He?

To keep saying, “But I love you!”, and not back it up with personal and meaningful expressions can be like giving others gifts, that when opened, are mostly empty on the inside. It is imperative to personalize and concretize our love. It is necessary (and God-like!) to accept and to direct our energies and efforts toward the unique personality structures of the people God is calling us to lovingly care for. Isn’t true romance (not cultural romanticism) simply how we make our love visible? If our love is not personalized in a meaningful way to the receivers of our love, then things like doubt, confusion, and a loss of “warmth” are likely to invade our relationships. Are you aware that the most salient indicator of a relationship on the verge of failing is not interpersonal conflict, money pressures, or temperament differences? But that it is the loss warmth? Fail to make meaningful, recognizable deposits of love and love may, indeed, grow cold.

Every relationship has doors. (See John 10:9) We must be responsible to find the “door” to the spouse’s, child’s, brother or sister in Christ’s heart. Find that “door” (the “ask... seek... knock” approach is a good one!) Ask, “How do you feel loved?” Seek, “What does that look like to you?” And knock on that door with personalized, concretized, meaningful expressions. Yes, I full well know the “lock” for that door in on the inside. But others are more willing to risk opening that door when they are being loved in ways that look and feel like love to them. We don’t love like this to get desired results. We love like this because it is the responsible and loving thing to do. I know how all of us might think at this point. “But it’s not fair – why do I have to make the first move?” That’s an easy one – because there is a life within you that always makes the first move! Or maybe, “But I don’t know how to love like this?” Do you know Who does? Who can? There is a realistic, respectful, and responsible Lover Who lives in you! And His Love... in you... for others... will never die!



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Praise Reports & Prayer Requests



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Greetings

I think you've realized we are working a different newsletter schedule in preparation for ending our 36 year run of printed mailouts. We will send one more in December 2025 and that will be our final hard copy mailing. Which means a couple of things:

1) If you wish to continue receiving our monthly Newsletter you will still have options. You may go to our message site - stevepettitmessages.com - and read or print out our monthly edition any time you like. Or, you can send us your email address in the next 6-8 weeks and we will send you a monthly email edition.

2) If you have no access to either of those options but you want to continue receiving a hard copy, please let us know in the next 6-8 weeks and we will mail you a first class edition each month - no charge.

Finally, just to be clear, One In Christ, Inc. is not "shutting down" our active ministry. Our conference schedule load is being trimmed, but continuing. Counseling, mentoring, and investing in local churches goes on. We are considering putting some things into print in the coming days. And there's always the "What's next, Father?" anticipation of our God Who is making all things new!

Thank you for being a part of the journey with us for so long. Let the journey continue!

Calendar

OCTOBER

14 Alachua Study
23-26 Louisville, KY Men's Retreat
(502-664-5622)


NOVEMBER


11 Alachua Study
14-16 Grace Bible Retreat, Sebring, FL
(863-382-1085)


DECEMBER


21 First Baptist Alachua

Praise & Prayer

 For God's responsible and sacrificial love

 For those willing to love us meaningfully

 To discern how to best care well for others according to their deep-seated needs

 To learn to personalize the love of God in us for others which never dies