

RIPPLE EFFECT

Ripple Effect Part 2 – Week 1

Mark 9:50; Rom. 12:16-18 & 15:5; James 4:11 & 5:9
'Be at peace with one another' – April 16, 2023

Check out one of these helpful resources:

1) Last Words of Jesus: First Steps to a Richer Life

-- Stu Epperson Jr. <https://bit.ly/3YXBBx7>

2) *The Cross and the Power of Forgiveness* <http://bit.ly/3EaEbYG>

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KNOW:

- Describe a time when you were a kid when you had conflict with a sibling or friend.
- What words come to mind whenever you think of peace? What are synonyms for peace?
- If you disagree with someone, yet seek peace, do you fear it will be as if they “won”?
- What is the biggest influence on why you do not seek peace with someone? Are those influences different if it is seeking peace with a Christian or with a non-Christian?
- Describe a scenario or setting that causes you to feel at peace. What kinds of things steal your peace when they occur?
- Do you feel like your circumstances and your external world or your thoughts and your internal world have a bigger impact on the level of peace in your heart and mind? (Philippians 4:6-7)
- The gospel-centered heart posture described in Romans 12:16-18. But what about this posture and lifestyle is different than that of simply being a good person? How are Christians different than a non-Christian with good morals?

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GROW:

- We can confuse “keeping the peace” (keeping silent, not ruffling feathers or causing conflict, “taking one for the team”) with being a peacemaker. How do you think those two things might be different and what does a healthy, Biblical approach to conflict look like? (Romans 12:16-18, 2 Corinthians 13:11)
- What does it mean to be at peace with one another? How does this relate to our relationship with God? (Mark 9:50; Romans 12:16-18 & 15:5; James 4:11 & 5:9)
- We, as believers, have the Holy Spirit living in us. Galatians 5:22 tells us that peace is part of the fruit of the Spirit. So what does this teach us about how we can have peace in our lives?
- What role does the Holy Spirit play in helping us to become successful peacemakers in the world? How can we rely on the Spirit's work in our hearts to live at peace with others? (Galatians 5:22; Romans 8:6; Philippians 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:20-21)
- What role does humility play in fostering peace with others? How can we cultivate a spirit of humility in our interactions with others?
- How does the principle of being at peace with one another relate to the broader theme of love and unity in the Bible?
- If someone asked you to describe the kind of peace a Christian has, how would you describe it? What are the differences between “worldly peace” and “gospel-centered peace”?
- Read Romans 12:18. What does Paul mean by “so far as it depends on you”?



SHOW:

- God made peace possible between himself and us. He did this when we had not earned or deserved this peace. With that truth in mind, how should the way God has treated us influence how we treat others?
- In Romans 12:16-18, Paul writes of a way in which we are to live. How do these actions of humility and “others first” create a platform for Christ followers to share the Gospel?
- If we are honest, we can try to maintain peace in our lives by seeking to maintain *control* over our lives. What does this look like for you and how might you, this week, seek to find your peace in God? (Ephesians 2:14-16, Romans 15:13)
- Is there a person or situation in your life where you need to pursue peace? What step could you take this week towards that? If it's appropriate to share, share that with your group – pray for each other and encourage each other in that situation.
- How can we practically demonstrate sacrificial love and peace towards others, especially those who may have mistreated us? (Romans 12:9-21, 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:15; 1 Peter 3:9)

RIPPLE EFFECT

Ripple Effect Part 2 – Week 2

Galatians 5: 25-26

‘Do not provoke one another’ – April 23, 2023

Check out one of these helpful resources:

- 1) The One Anothers – Tim Challies <https://bit.ly/3mMzchX>
- 2) The One Anothers (RightNow Media) – Tony Evans <https://bit.ly/3R5LqFg>

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KNOW:

- How is your pace of life in this season? Do you feel exhausted and stretched thin, or energized and ready to take on the next challenge, or maybe bored and looking for purpose? Maybe it's none of these. Share with your group how you're really doing beyond the usual, "I'm good".
- How have you seen God at work in your life or the life of those around you in the recent weeks and months?
- What are some common sources of envy in our society?
- Have you ever struggled with envy or coveting? Can you share a specific experience or situation where you felt this way?
- What is something you are currently grateful for in your life? Why is it significant to you?
- Have you ever unintentionally provoked envy in someone else? How did you address the situation?



GROW:

- Read Galatians 5:16-26. What does Paul mean when he says we are to "live by the Spirit"? How do these verses help us understand what that looks like in our lives?
- Eric Geiger wrote an article that we shared in our Membership booklet that talks about the four root idols that lead to sin: Power, Comfort, Control and Acceptance. What is at the root of conceit and envy in your life? How does living by the Spirit help us turn from those idols?
- In verse 25, what does it mean to "live by the Spirit" and to "walk by the Spirit?" Are these two different activities? Is it possible to live by the Spirit and not walk by the Spirit?
- There is a fine line between envy and appropriate ambition. How does becoming conceited serve to provoke one another in verse 26?
- In what ways can we provoke others to envy? How can we avoid doing this?
- How does dying to ourselves and living for Christ daily help us avoid envy?
- What does verse 24 mean when it refers to crucifying our flesh? How does this relate to avoiding envy?
- St. Thomas Aquinas defines envy as sorrow for another's good. Do you agree with this definition?
- How can envy hinder our spiritual growth and our relationship with God? How does the gospel help us avoid envy and coveting?



SHOW:

- Consider how you live your life before others. In what ways might you be provoking envy? How do you discern the line between being open about your life and flaunting it before others? How can Scripture help guide you in this?
- How can we, as a group, fight against the temptation to envy others? How can we help one another live in a way that doesn't provoke others to envy?
- Are there any areas in your life where you struggle with envy? What steps can you take to overcome it?
- Can you think of any relationships in your life where you may have unintentionally provoked envy in others? How can you repair those relationships?

RIPPLE EFFECT

Ripple Effect Part 2 – Week 3 'By our Love/Love one another' – April 30, 2023

Check out one of these helpful resources:

- 1) The One Anothers – Tim Challies <https://bit.ly/3mMzchX>
- 2) The One Anothers (RightNow Media) – Tony Evans <https://bit.ly/3R5LqFg>

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KNOW:

- What are you excited about going into the summer season? What are you planning to do?
- How would you define love?
- Share about a time when you really experienced love? What happened that made you feel or recognize you were experiencing love?
- Does love get confused with like or lust in current culture? Why do you think that?
- Tell us about a time when you felt God's love by the way someone else loved and cared for you?
- Why is it challenging to love those who are different from us, such as people of different races, cultures, or socioeconomic backgrounds?



GROW:

- Read 1 John 4:11-12. What do these verses say about God? How can people see God?
- How does God loving us, give us the ability to love other people? How does this play out with your family, friends, and co-workers?
- What new command did Jesus give His disciples? In what way was it “new”? Read Deuteronomy 6:4–5 and Leviticus 19:18.
- How should love be expressed in church community? How well do we as a church express love toward one another? To others?
- What does 1 Peter 1:22 tell us about the connection between loving one another and purifying our souls? How can we apply this principle in our daily lives?
- In 1 John 3:11-12, John contrasts the example of Cain, who murdered his brother out of jealousy, with the example of Christ, who laid down His life for us out of love. How does this illustrate the importance of love in the Christian life?
- The Bible frequently talks about loving not just those who are easy to love, but also our enemies (Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:27-28). How can we love those who are difficult to love or who have hurt us in the past?
- What role does forgiveness play in our ability to love one another? How can we forgive others who have hurt us, and how can we seek forgiveness when we have wronged someone else?



SHOW:

- Where is a place that you can reflect the love of Jesus to others this week? How can we come alongside of you and pray for you in this area?
- How can we love people outside of our church building? What is a way our D-Group can show God’s love to others?
- How can we overcome the barriers that prevent us from loving one another, such as fear, pride, or judgment?
- How can we extend forgiveness and grace to those who have hurt us, even when it is difficult to do so?
- What role does humility play in loving one another well? How can we cultivate a humble attitude in our interactions with others?

RIPPLE EFFECT

Ripple Effect Part 2 – Week 4

'Pray for one another' Eph. 3:14-21, James 5:16 – May 7, 2023

Check out one of these helpful resources:

- 1) The One Anothers – Tim Challies <https://bit.ly/3mMzcHX>
- 2) The One Anothers (RightNow Media) – Tony Evans <https://bit.ly/3R5LqFg>

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KNOW (Build Relationships)

- Are you comfortable or timid praying with others?
- What role does prayer play in your daily routine? When and where do you usually pray?
- Who in your life modeled prayer for you?
- How has prayer impacted your life personally?
- Share a recent answer to prayer that you're thankful for.
- What is one thing you're currently praying for in your life?
- Have you ever experienced the power of prayer in someone else's life? Can you share that story?

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GROW: (Grow Spiritually)

- Read Ephesians 3:14-21. What does Paul pray for? How does this passage encourage us in our prayers for one another?
- When looking at Eph 3:14-21, what prompts Paul to pray with such humility and gratitude?
- Why do verses 20-21 encourage us to pray with great expectations? Why should we pray for God to do amazing things?
- Read James 5:16. Why is it important to confess our sins and pray for one another?
- Timothy Keller writes, "To confess your sins to somebody means to go and say, "You were in the right; I was in the wrong. You were right. Pray for me. Forgive me"." How does this quote relate to the importance of confessing our sins to one another and the healing that can come from it?
- Why does having both humility and building a strong relationship with someone contribute to knowing how to pray for them specifically? Why might this be important?
- Why do you think praying for one another is important for our spiritual growth, our relationships with each other, and our relationship with God?
- How do you feel about the idea of confessing your sins to one another? Why do you think it's difficult for some people to do this?
- What role does the Holy Spirit play in our prayers for one another and in our confession of sins to one another? How can we rely on the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us in these areas?



SHOW: (Live on Mission)

- How can we create a safe and non-judgmental environment for confessing our sins to one another? What role does trust play in this process?
- What are some practical ways we can actively pray for one another beyond generic requests?
- What are some practical ways we can cultivate a culture of vulnerability and trust within our group, making it easier for us to confess sins to one another?

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RIPPLE EFFECT

Ripple Effect Part 2 – Week 5

‘Regard one another as more important than yourself’ Phil. 2:3,
Romans 12:10 – May 14, 2023

Check out one of these helpful resources:

- 1) The One Anothers – Tim Challies <https://bit.ly/3mMzchX>
- 2) The One Anothers (RightNow Media) – Tony Evans <https://bit.ly/3R5LqFg>

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KNOW (Build Relationships)

- What does the word “honor” mean to you? Who has displayed godly honor to you?
- Reflect on this quote: "*We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.*" - Winston Churchill. What rings true about this quote?
- Who is someone you know that embodies the quality of regarding others as more important than themselves, and how have you seen that in action?
- How do you respond when you feel like someone is not giving you the honor or respect you deserve?
- Share a time when you struggled to put someone else's needs before your own, and what did you learn from that experience?

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GROW: (Grow Spiritually)

- What kinds of motivation does Paul give for the church to serve one another with compassion in Phil 2:1-4?
- Philippians 2:4 says: "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." Why is humility a prerequisite for loving sincerely?
- What does it mean to "regard one another as more important than yourself"? How is this attitude different from what the world teaches us?
- 1 Corinthians 10:24 says: "Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor." How does our relationship with Christ impact our ability to love and serve others in this way?
- Read Romans 12:10. What are some practical ways we can outdo each other in showing honor and generosity?
- How do we reconcile the idea of regarding others as more important than ourselves with the need to set healthy boundaries in relationships?
- Galatians 6:2 says: "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." How can we extend grace to those who struggle to live out this principle of valuing others above ourselves?
- Reflect on this quote: "*No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.*" - Charles Dickens. How does Dickens' words agree with the truth of Scripture to regard one another as more important than yourself?
- What role does forgiveness play in our ability to regard others as more important than ourselves?



SHOW: (Live on Mission)

- How can we apply the principles of Philippians 2:3 and Romans 12:10 in our relationships with coworkers, friends, and family members who do not share our faith?
- What are some things that we can lay aside to deem others better than ourselves, and have the mind of Christ?
- What does it mean to humble yourself? How can we be better at walking humbly before the Lord?
- How can you intentionally seek out opportunities to serve others in your community or church? How can you pray for God's guidance and strength as you seek to live out this principle of regarding others as more important than yourself?

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RIPPLE EFFECT

Ripple Effect Part 2 – Week 6

‘Confess your sins/Bear another’s burdens/Do not pass judgement’
Ja. 5:16, Gal 6:2, Rom 14:13 – May 21, 2023

Check out one of these helpful resources:

- 1) The One Anothers – Tim Challies <https://bit.ly/3mMzchX>
- 2) The One Anothers (RightNow Media) – Tony Evans <https://bit.ly/3R5LqFg>

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KNOW (Build Relationships)

- Why is it so hard for us to be vulnerable and honest with others?
- Is it easier or harder for you to open up to people about personal matters? Why?
- Have you ever had the opportunity to confess sin to a fellow believer? What was that like?
- Has anyone ever helped you with something you really needed help with? How did their assistance positively impact you?
- Share one experience where you felt the impact of being part of a spiritual community for support or love.
- Can you think of a time when you struggled to be vulnerable with your community? How did you overcome it?

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GROW: (Grow Spiritually)

- Read Galatians 6:2. How does bearing one another's burdens "fulfill the law of Christ"?
- What happens when we confess our sins to one another? Why is the command in James 5:16 to do that instead of solely confessing to God?
- Read Romans 14:10-13 for context. Why does Paul say that we shouldn't pass judgment on one another?
- James 5:16 reminds us to confess our sins to one another and pray for one another. Unconfessed sin in our life has a way of making us feel like we are in bondage still, when we are really free in Christ. Are there any sins in your life that you need to confess to your D-Group? Spend time praying for one another if anyone confesses.
- What value has biblical community added to your life, especially when it comes to vulnerability and being able to share honestly with one another?
- How does James 5:16 emphasize the importance of confessing our sins to one another? How can this practice contribute to the growth of a spiritual community?
- Galatians 6:2 instructs us to bear one another's burdens. What are some practical ways we can actively support and help each other within our community?
- In what ways do you think congregational prayer moments impact the unity and spiritual growth of the community?



SHOW: (Live on Mission)

- Discuss as a group what's happening in your lives and how you can bear one another's burdens this week. Be honest and specific. Are there any prayer requests or needs within our community that you are aware of? How can you personally intercede and uplift these needs in prayer?
- What are some stumbling blocks (Romans 14:13) that you've had in your journey of faith? How can you ensure that the people in your circles of influence don't encounter similar ones?
- Read Galatians 6:2 as a group. What are some ways you can "bear one another's burdens" in D-Group? Share with one another if you have any specific burdens that you need help carrying.
- Read Romans 14:13 together. Are there any stumbling blocks or hindrances in your life that are affecting others negatively in their faith? Share with your D-Group how you can go about removing this stumbling block through the grace of Christ.
- Reflecting on James 5:16, is there an area of your life where you need to seek accountability and confess your struggles to a trusted member of our community?
- In what ways can you actively practice bearing one another's burdens this week? Can you think of specific individuals in our community who might need your support?

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