

**Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church**  
**2080 West Grand Blvd.**  
**Detroit, Michigan 48208**  
**Nathan Johnson, D.D., Senior Pastor**

**Lesson 1: Introduction to Authentic Relationships: Discover the Lost Art of “One Anothering”<sup>1</sup>**

**Goal:**            *Build Authentic Relationships by Reestablishing the Art of “One Anothering.”*

**Objective:**    *Provide Scriptural support for establishing one anothering in the congregation.*

**Introduction:**

As we begin a new series, it emphasizes ways to re-discover the lost art of “one anothering.” Through this series of lessons we want to encourage *fellow believers* to experience authentic and godly relationships toward one another within the *church body*. The church is unique because it is established directly from the heart of God. No one becomes a true member of the Body of Christ without first having a transforming encounter with the love of God. God intended for the New Testament Church to exemplify love and compassion. It is designed to strengthen and deepen our relationship with Him as we develop relationships with one another. The Church is a safe haven and place of support where all can be nourished by His living Word. As Christians, we need to examine our views of our church and our present relationship with other believers.

Being content to merely attend church is not enough, but we must be the church that lives God’s Word. Authentic fellowship in the church today seems dormant; relationships are not being cultivated according to God’s plan. One anothering, as articulated in the Scriptures, provides a blueprint for us to be on one accord and of the same mind and Spirit. “*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus*”. (Philippians 2:5). God expects us to reflect His Son as a community of believers. So as we seek to fulfill God’s will by studying and discussing the concept of “one anothering”, we invite you to examine afresh God’s blueprint for the type of authentic relationships fundamental to our life as a community of believers. As a church, we ought to be a reflection of the divine character of Jesus. Only if we understand and embrace ‘who we are’ and ‘whose we are’ can we truly *love one another as Christ has loved us*.

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<sup>1</sup> Jacobsen, W., & Jacobsen, C. *Authentic Relationships: Discover the lost art of “one anothering”*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing Group, (2003). Print.

*“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembly of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching.”*

(Hebrews 10:24-25)

**Discussion Point #1:**

*How did Jesus model the attributes of selflessness for us throughout His earthly ministry? Since His life was given for our salvation, how can we apply the attributes of selflessness to help others escape the loneliness trap?*

One of the lessons Jesus taught modeled the humble spirit of a servant as He washed the feet of His apostles.

*“Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for (so) I am. If I then, (your) Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, the servant is not greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.”*  
(John 13:13-17 KJV)

**Discussion Point #2**

*What are the characteristics of people with a life focused on others? Does a person come to mind who exemplifies that characteristic? Describe that person.*

Love is the most powerful force on the face of the earth. God has given people the love they need to draw others to Him.

*“Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.”*  
(Romans 12:9-10, the Living Bible)

**Biblical Exercise:**

*Identify three people in our church family to invite to participate in one of the ministries that you are actively involved. The purpose is to reach out and engage others. Do not become discouraged by any excuses or rejections you meet as you pursue the work in discipleship for you may have paved the way for an eventual ‘yes’ response. Paul taught the Corinthian church, “I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.” (1 Corinthians 3:4)*

## Monthly Biblical Exercises

<b>Month</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Monthly Biblical Exercise</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>2011</b>	<i>Introduction to Authentic Relationships</i>