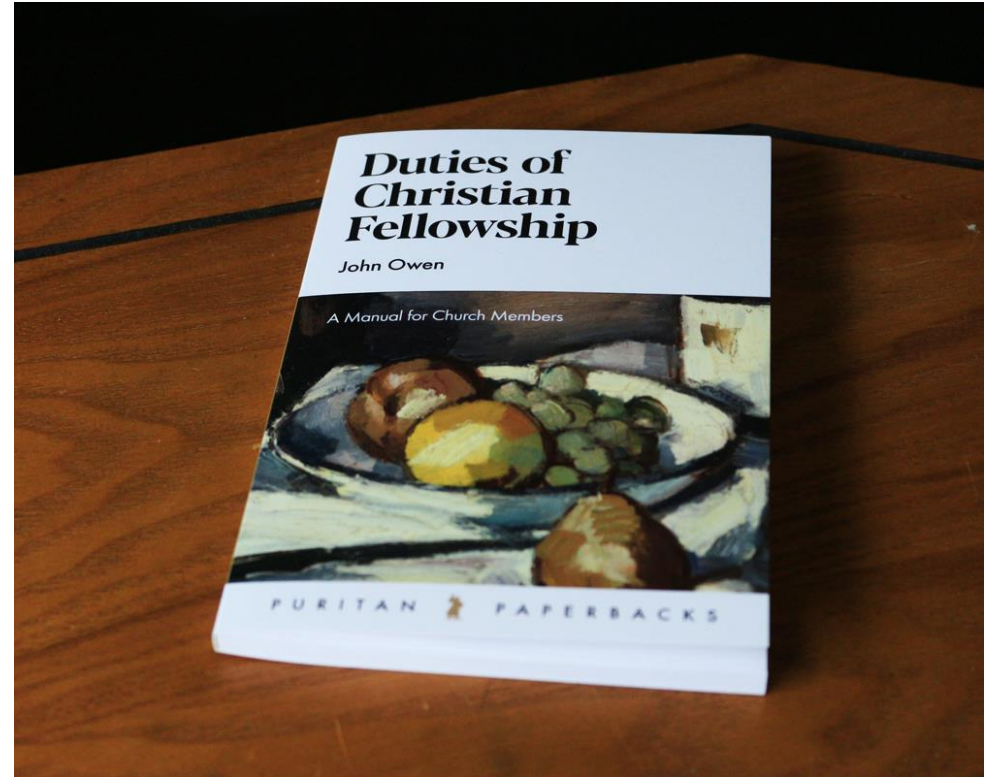
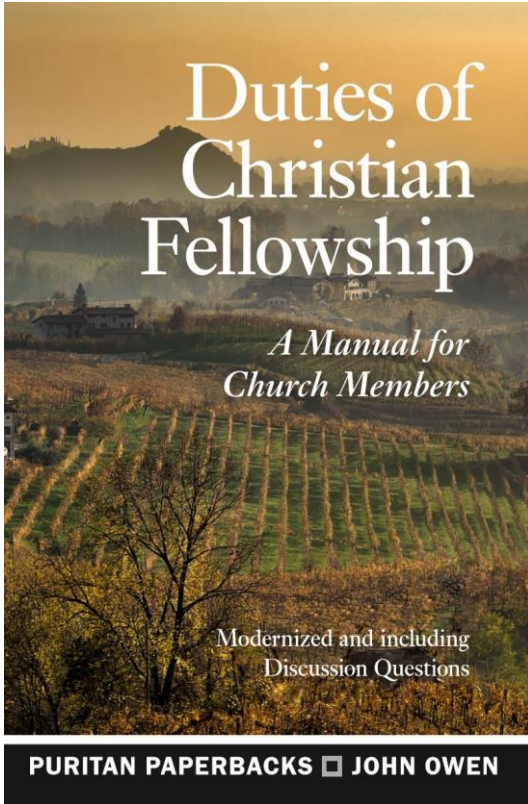


The Unity of the Local Church

With respect to other believers

Introduction: Review

- Union with Christ
- Local Church Unity
 - Toward pastors
 - Dispense the means of grace
 - By following our pastors



Introduction

Introduction

- What is Love?

Introduction: Outline

- Love Explained
- Love Encouraged

Main Point

- Love produces Unity

Love Explained

- The Obligation of Love
- John 15:12, “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

Love Explained

- The Obligation of Love
- John 13:34-35, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Love Explained

- The Obligation of Love
- Romans 13:8, “love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.”

Love Explained

- The Obligation of Love
- Ephesians 5:2, “And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

Love Explained

- The Obligation of Love
- 1 Thessalonians 3:12, “and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you. . .”

Love Explained

- The Obligation of Love
- 1 Thessalonians 4:9, “Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another. . . .”

Love Explained

- The Obligation of Love
- 1 Peter 1:22, “love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again”

Love Explained

- The Obligation of Love
- 1 John 4:21, “And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.”

Love Explained

- The Obligation of Love
- Romans 12:10, “Love one another with brotherly affection.”

Love Explained

- Explanation of Love

Love Explained

- Explanation of Love
 - From the Spirit
 - Galatians 5:22, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness. . .”

Love Explained

- Explanation of Love
 - Leads to action
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:8, “So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.”

Love Explained

- Explanation of Love
 - Leads to action
 - Hebrews 13:1, “Let brotherly love continue”

Love Encouraged

- God commands it
- Leviticus 19:34, “You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.”

Love Encouraged

- God commands it
- Matthew 19:19 (Leviticus 19:18), “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Love Encouraged

- God commands it
- Romans 13:8-10

Love Encouraged

- God does it
- Deuteronomy 7:8, “but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”

Love Encouraged

- God does it
- Romans 5:8, “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Love Encouraged

- God does it
- Ephesians 1:4-5, “In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will”

Love Encouraged

- Jesus' Example
- John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."

Love Encouraged

- **Jesus' Example**
- **Ephesians 5:2, “And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”**

Love Encouraged

- Who we are in Christ
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”

Love Encouraged

- Shapes all other obligations
- Galatians 5:6, “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.”

Love Encouraged

- Shapes all other obligations
- 1 John 4:20, “If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.”

Love Encouraged

- Consequences of Absence
- Matthew 24:12, “And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.”

Love Encouraged

- Consequences of Absence
- 1 John 3:14-15, “We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.”

Love Encouraged

- “It is love, the bond of communion, which manifests itself and is active in all the rules that follow.”

Conclusion

- Love produces unity
- Do this by Faith
- Do this always
- Questions