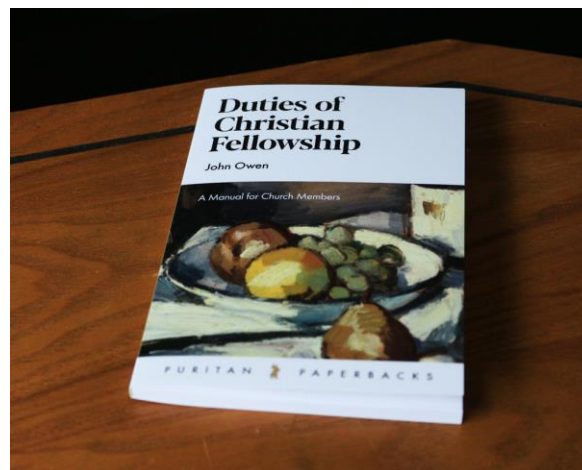
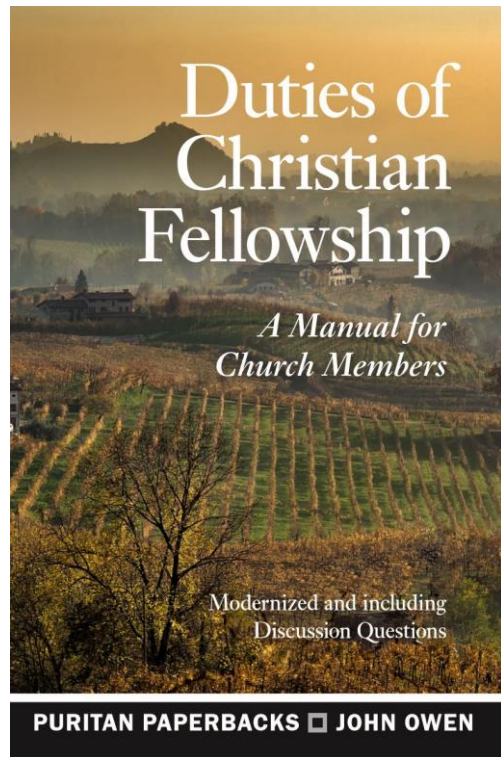


The Unity of the Local Church

With respect to other believers

Introduction: Review

- Union with Christ
- Local Church Unity
 - Toward pastors
 - Dispense the means of grace
 - By following our pastors
 - Toward one another
 - Love one another
 - Pray for one another



Introduction

Introduction: Outline

- Faithful to One Another
- Forbearing with One Another

Main Point

- Commitment preserves unity

Faithful to One Another

- Commanded
- Matthew 13:20-21 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away

Faithful to One Another

- Commanded
- Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Faithful to One Another

- Commanded
- Hebrews 10:32-39

Faithful to One Another

- **Commanded**
- **2 Timothy 4:10 For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.**

Faithful to One Another

- Thinking lightly about our church attendance is dangerous to our souls

Faithful to One Another

- Beware making excuses

Faithful to One Another

- Some encouragement to faithfulness

Commitment preserves unity

- We commit to faithfulness toward one another
- We commit to forbear with one another

Forbear with One Another

- Commanded
- Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Forbear with One Another

- Commanded
- Matthew 18:21-22 Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times

Forbear with One Another

- Commanded
- Mark 11:25-26 25 “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

Forbear with One Another

- Commanded
- Romans 14:13 Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.

Forbear with One Another

- Commanded
- Romans 15:1-2 1 We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up

Forbear with One Another

- Commanded
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Forbear with One Another

- Commanded
- Galatians 6:1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Forbear with One Another

- Commanded
- Colossians 3:12-14 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony

Forbear with One Another

- Example of God
 - Isaiah 55
 - Matthew 18:23-25

Forbear with One Another

- Think carefully
- Follow Christ's example
 - “If you are angry, annoyed, rejoicing, estranged from him, you are a partner with him in the evil, instead of helping him. What if God were angry every time you gave him cause, and struck you every time you provoked him?”

Forbear with One Another

- Some principles from Owen
 - Remember God's patience
 - Remember God's command
 - Act with “tenderness of affection and heartfelt compassion”

Forbear with One Another

- “Let pity, not envy; mercy, not malice; patience, not passion; Christ, not flesh; grace, not nature; pardon, not spite or revenge, be our guides and companions in our fellowship.”

Forbear with One Another

- Encouragement to forbearance

Conclusion

- Faithfulness to one another
- Forbearance with one another
- Follow Christ in this also