



NETWORKING THE BAPTIST FAMILY TO IMPACT THE WORLD FOR CHRIST

“ALLELON”

Baptist World President Tomás Mackey

love one another (“allelon”) (**John 13:34; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 4:7**),
be at peace with each other (“allelon”) (**Mark 9: 50**).
forgive one another (“allelon”) (**Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13**),
encourage one another (“allelon”) (**1 Thessalonians 4:18, 1 Thessalonians 5:11**),
edify one another (“allelon”) (**1 Thessalonians 5:11**),
honor one another (“allelon”) (**Romans 12:10**),
instruct one another (“allelon”) (**Romans 15:14**),
receive one another (“allelon”) (**Romans 15:7**),
carry each other’s burdens (“allelon”) (**Galatians 6:2**).
do not slander one another (“allelon”) (**James 4: 11**)
don’t grumble against each other (“allelon”) (**James 5: 9**).
confess your sins to each other and pray one for another (“allelon”) (**James 5: 16**)
be of the same mind one toward another (**Romans 12: 16**).
let us not therefore judge one another (“allelon”) (**Romans 14: 13**)
lie not one to another (“allelon”) (**Colossians 3: 9**)

1. The Greek word “allelon” occurs more than 90 times in the New Testament.

In the Bible, “allelon” is translated “one another,” “each other,” “one to the other,” “mutual,” “together,” “among themselves,” “reciprocally.”

The word is used to indicate that two or more people can carry out an action and get the consequences of that action at the same time.

When we read this word or phrase in Scripture, it is often used to reveal the shared interaction Christians are to have with one another.

2. The theme of God-pleasing *allelon* relationships is fundamental to the functioning and maturity of disciples and churches.

It is also a testimonial note of the way in which the disciples imitate Christ and are empowered with the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

3. The *allelon* relationship that God commands is key to the proper functioning of the Baptist World Alliance.

On the other hand, the weakening or lack of such good *allelon* relationships will make our work difficult or deficient.

4. The work of the Baptist World Alliance is always most fruitful, flourishing, and deepening when it grows in such *allelon* relationships, when it provides resources to enhance such virtues, and when it actually enjoys the *allelon* relationships the Lord commands.

Ongoing training to live loving, peaceful, just, and wise *allelon* relationships must be at the heart of all BWA activities.

Living such a quality of *allelon* relationships is not an activity in itself; it is the attitude which will permeate all we do.

Everything the BWA does must be done with the attitude and vocation to live those *allelon* relationships commanded by God.

5. This way of living our *allelon* relationships does not refer to a unique or sporadic situation. There are special moments where fair and peaceful *allelon* relationships are essential to solve serious situations. But loving, peaceful, helpful *allelon* relationships should be the criteria by which the BWA will accomplish all that it does at all time.

For this to be beneficial, this criterion of a virtuous *allelon* relationship must be incorporated into the character of each person. Living *allelon* relationships as God commands should be the normal pattern by which the BWA thinks, bases, and does its activities.

6. Is it possible to grow in such a way of functioning?
It is not only possible, but it is an imperative of the Lord.

7. *Allelon* relationships with that quality are those that energize, drive, give quality, reliability, and vigor to the churches and should be the very character of the organization we love.

8. It is not enough just trying to live that kind of *allelon* relationship. We have to provide intelligent tools that train us to live that way until we can integrate it into the easy yoke of Christ.

9. What most enriches the mission and the very existence of the BWA will be the quality of *allelon* relationships that all of its participants can experience.

The dynamic quality of its *allelon* will define the depth of its reliability, the quality of its witnessing, and the quality of its service in the kingdom.

On the contrary, the lack of depth in *allelon* bonds or the deficient quality of *allelon* bonds among our member bodies, will make our task difficult and will create great conflict.

10. Throughout many years of involvement with the Baptist World Alliance, what has challenged me most has been to nourish myself with experiences of reconciling *allelon* relationships, of mutual

learning, of mutual forgiveness, of shared nourishment, of advocacy for mutual rights and service for the freedoms of others, of efforts for mutual understanding.

It was in the concrete practice of the various one-anothering commands that I found a flourishing, nourishing, hopeful, true witness of life in a world of darkness.

It was in the concrete exercise of God-pleasing *allelon* relationships that I was able to experience that the willingness to learn from the other took precedence over imposing my opinion on the other.

It was there that the willingness to listen to others instead of defending myself from others was facilitated.

It was there that I accepted and valued what we are but with a willingness to improve after interacting with others and accepting what we could incorporate.

It was thanks to *allelon* relationships modified by the Holy Spirit that we were enriched by the generosity of so many, by teaching, by working for freedom, justice and human rights.

It was the *allelon* relationships that please God that made possible to contribute together to the mission.

Thanks to God-pleasing *allelon* relationships we were able to work for peace together with brothers and sisters from countries at war or in permanent conflict.

God-pleasing *allelon* relationships nourished our help to those most affected by all kinds of truly traumatic situations.

It was such *allelon* relationships that promoted the use of the best tools in favor of others.

It was that vision that empowered the work for the health and growth of the Baptist family.

11. The *allelon* relationships modified by God were key to set aside selfishness, thus initiating the process of mutual edification until we are a mature community.

The *allelon* context of adequate relationships is the most suitable for our thought to be transformed and, as a consequence, to function properly again.

On the other hand, the weakening or lack of such good *allelon* relationships, deepened divisions and produced a tense environment.

12. I would like to challenge us to always commit to train ourselves to incorporate into the identity of the Baptist World Alliance the most challenging notes of the best way to relate *allelon*.

I believe this is not only possible but challenging when lived out in the name of Jesus. This means that we live it on his behalf and with his resources and immersed in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (2 Corinthians 13:13)