

The “In” Group

By Pauline M. Long

Our minister’s recent sermon concerning cliques and “in” groups made me realize just how much of an “in” group our ladies’ class has become—cliquish and exclusive.

Our class is “in” to studying the Lord’s Word and encouraging each lady to prepare a lesson so that she can have the experience and practice of teaching. We are “in” to listening to our sister’s problems and helping her find a solution. We are “in” to quilting—having made more than a dozen in the last few years—and have lost track of the number of baby quilts and baby garments we have made.



We are “in” to benevolence and have helped supply, sort and maintain the clothing room. We are constantly contributing materials or using materials already contributed for making items for the needy.

We are “in” to prayer and spend much time each week praying for numerous people by name. We have seen answers in a change of attitude, in a lessening of physical pain, etc. We send numerous cards each week to the sick, those who need encouragement, those who need praise and recognition for an accomplishment, or to add our praise to God for alleviating pain and stress in a situation.

We are exclusive. At the risk of being charged with discrimination, we have excluded men, except when they have presented lessons to us, such as a recent demonstration on crime prevention. We have drawn a circle around ourselves and include only the ladies of our congregation or any other congregation. Age-wise, they have to be between the youngest infant and the oldest adult female.

I have to admit, also, that we are cliquish. In fact, we just “click right along” in our activities each week and plan many more for the future.

Mostly we are “in” to love. Over the years, many have come to us, new to our town or new to the congregation, with sick children, marriages in tatters, burdened down with debt, problems of broken families, elderly parents, cancer or other seemingly incurable diseases.

We have welcomed our new sisters with outstretched arms and have held our hurting sisters. And we have “loved” them back onto their feet. We have sustained them by praying with them and for them for a workable solution for their problems. We have

borne them up through times of grief and sorrow over the death of loved ones. We have rejoiced with them over recovery and have praised God for His mercy and love.

Each one in the class has been uplifted at one time or another, either by receiving from or giving of love to her sisters. We find that the love and sharing that exists in the class has helped all of us to grow. We are more aware of the needs of each other and of our need for God.

Our greatest desire is that every lady in the congregation will join the “in” group. Our only requirement is that she is prepared to be loved—for herself, as she is, with no strings attached.