

LOVE ONE ANOTHER Text: John 13:34-35

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By This All Will Know You Are My Disciples

1. **Jesus wept over Jerusalem...**
 - a. They Persecuted and Killed the Prophets...
 - b. The Leaders were full of extortion, hypocrisy, and lawlessness...
 - c. They would crucify the Holy Messiah... and then hunt down His followers to kill them
 2. **Jesus wept for them because He loved them! But they refused to love God...**
 - a. Jesus knew Jerusalem was spiritually dead and would soon be desolate...
 - b. The disciples asked and Jesus told them... (Matthew 24:9–14)
 3. **‘Because of Lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold’**
 - a. There are times when the love of many grows cold...
 - b. I Felt That Way This Week—With all the fighting and division in our country
 - c. And on the night of His betrayal, after instituting the Lord’s Supper,
Jesus gave a New Commandment (John 13:34-35)
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I. A NEW COMMANDMENT—LOVE ONE ANOTHER (Jn 13:34)

A. WHAT IS AGAPE LOVE?

1. **It’s Not Romantic love... or puppy love... not selfish or materialistic love
—It is the Highest, Greatest, Purest Love of All...**
 - a) It is a self-sacrificing love that gives without demanding or expecting repayment.
 - b) Selfless Love that wants what is best for that person.
 - c) The Greeks hardly used the word Agape so it wasn’t tainted by Greek culture...
 - d) But the New Testament uses word Agape more than any other word for Love...
2. **Agape is Used over 100x in NT which defines agape for us (Matt 5:43-48)**
 - a) To love our Enemies is not the Same Love as we have for Family and Friends
That is the tender affection we have for our loved ones
 - b) Agape is is the power to love those whom we do not like and who may not like us.
 - c) Agape Love is Not Based on Emotion—but on the Mind and Will
3. **This is Why Agape is Not Easy—it involves Self-Sacrifice**
 - a) To conquer our natural tendency to anger and to bitterness, and to achieve this
invincible goodwill to all people.

“In at least one aspect, agape is the ability and the power and the determination to love the people we do not like; it is not an easy, automatic emotional response. It is a victory over self. (Barclay, NT Words)

B. WHY ARE WE TO HAVE AGAPE LOVE?

1. **Why Would Anyone Choose to Love Their Enemies? (v.45, 48)**
 - a) Jesus tells us: So you may be like your Father in Heaven—perfect as He is perfect
2. **But To Love Carries Risk... and Not to Love carries Risk...**

“Love anything, and your heart certainly will be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket — safe, dark, motionless, airless — it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. The only place outside of Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers of love is Hell.” – C.S. Lewis ‘The Four Loves’

C. WHY IS AGAPE LOVE SO IMPORTANT?

1. It is the Basis of Every Perfect Relationship in Heaven and on Earth

- a) Between the Father and the Son (**Jn 3:35**).
- b) Between the Son and the Father (**John 14:31**).
- c) Between God and the World (**Jn 3:16**).
- d) Between God and Us (**Ephesians 2:4**).
- e) Between Us and God —> (**Jn 16:27**).
- f) Between One Another (**1 John 4:7-8**)

(NT Words, Barclay)

2. Love is Vital b/c it's of the very Nature & Character of God — God is love!

II. AS I HAVE LOVED YOU... (13:34)

Jesus defines the love He commands of us—It is the very Love He has for us

A. THE LOVE OF CHRIST IS A SINCERE LOVE

1. Of all the gospels, His birth and ministry, His teaching, miracles, parables,

- a) His enemies and His temptation in wilderness,
- b) His prayers His sacrifice and His resurrection...
- c) In all the gospels, 89 chapters in all,

2. It seems to be only one place Jesus tells us about His heart (Mt. 11:28-30**)**

- a) Not everyone will reveal how they truly feel from their innermost heart
- b) He is not talking about His emotions, but His heart... Gentle, Meek, Lowly for you
- c) Jesus has a sincere heart for you... He wants to give you Rest!
- d) He wants to help you... to Forgive you... to Save you!

B. THE LOVE OF CHRIST IS A SELFLESS LOVE

1. Over and over the disciples were arguing over who would be greatest

- a) They knew Jesus was about to start something BIG
- b) On the night of His betrayal they are still arguing who would be greatest

2. Then Jesus washed the disciples feet

- a) a lesson on who would be greatest...
- b) The Least will be greatest... He who serves will be greatest

C. THE LOVE OF CHRIST IS A SELF-SACRIFICING LOVE

1. Jesus told them, “*the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*”

2. He could have called down 12 Legions of Angels

He could've Destroyed His Enemies with a single command

3. But Jesus chose Love — Agape, self-sacrificing love to submit to the

Fathers will and save the world from sin, satan and death

D. THE LOVE OF CHRIST IS AN UNDERSERVED LOVE

- 1. It was while we were sinners and enemies that God loved us**
- 2. and Jesus died for us (**Rom. 5:8**)**

E. THE LOVE OF CHRIST IS A FORGIVING LOVE

1. We are told to go boldly before the throne of grace
2. That we may receive help in time of need
3. His love is a forgiving love

F. THE LOVE OF CHRIST IS AN INSEPARABLE LOVE

1. All Human relationships reach an end...
2. But God's love goes beyond the veil of death (**Romans 8:39**).
3. Death, nor angels, nor demons, nor persecution can separate us from it

G. THE LOVE OF CHRIST IS A CHASTENING LOVE (Hebrews 12:6)

1. When the Rich Young Ruler came to Jesus with a question...
 - a) He Had the Right Question—Eternal Life
 - b) He Went to the Right Person—Jesus Christ
 - c) But He Wasn't Prepared for the Right Answer...
2. (**Mark 10:21–22**) **Jesus looked at him and loved him!**
God Loves You too Much to Leave You the Way You Are, He wants you to be like Christ

III. BY THIS ALL WILL KNOW YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES (13:35)

EXAMPLE: Two Women Went to King Solomon...

They had both had a child but one of the babies died in the night, and the mother of the dead child switched the babies in the night. When the other mother awoke, she found her child dead... but upon further inspection it wasn't her child, they were switched

(1 Kings 3:23-27) > How Did the King Know?

Because LOVE—SELF-SACRIFICING LOVE—is a Defining Mark of the one who has it!
This IS the Distinguishing, Defining Mark of God's people! > BUT WHY?

A. BECAUSE LOVE IS FROM GOD (1 Jn 4:7)

1. Agape Love is Not of this World, it is of God
2. It is from the Spirit of God—because God is love!

B. BECAUSE WITHOUT LOVE I CANNOT KNOW GOD (1 Jn 4:8)

1. Even if I had knowledge to understand all mysteries
2. Even if I had faith to move mountains
3. Even if I gave all I had to the poor and gave my body to be burned
Without it Doesn't Matter! — Without Love I am nothing

C. BECAUSE WITHOUT LOVE I CANNOT BE RIGHT W/ GOD (1Jn 4:20-21)

1. Remember the Law & Prophets stood on the Basis of Love...
 - a) To Love God with all your heart, soul and mind... 2nd: Love Neighbor as yourself
 - b) Man's Vertical Relationship w/ God — and Horizontal Relationship w/ Others

2. And Even Now God's Law is Fulfilled by Love—

Jesus said: ***'If You Love Me You Will Keep My Commandments'***

- a) Love is What Energizes Our Relationship with God
- b) Jesus Told the Church in Ephesus... ***"You have left your first love."*** (Rev. 2:4)

D. IT WAS THE LOVE OF GOD THAT JESUS DIED FOR US (1 Jn 4:9-11)

1. He was Pierced for our Transgressions ...
2. By His Stripes, the lashes and nails, we are healed
3. But it's His love for us today that offers atonement as our High Priest

E. LOVE IS THE CHARACTERISTIC MARK OF GOD'S PEOPLE

1. An Agape Love That Must Grow Bigger Than Ourselves!

And Expand Outward in Ever Widening Circles...

a) It Begins in the Family (Eph. 5:25, 28, 33)

- (1) Think of a Husband and Wife With Love For One Another...
- (2) But Then They Have a Child — Does their Love Now Get Divided Smaller?
- (3) Then They Have Another Child — Does it Divide Even Smaller? And Smaller?
- (4) Or Does Their Love Grow Bigger and Bigger?
- (5) So It Is With God's Children! — Our Love Must Grow Bigger Than Ourselves!
- (6) **(1 Jn 4:20–21) In Other Words—How Can You Love God...**

If Your Love Can Get No Bigger Than Yourself?

- b) It Expands Outward to the Brotherhood (1 Peter 2:17).
- c) It Expands Outward to our Neighbors (Mark 12:31).
- d) It Expands Outward to even our Enemies (Matt. 5:44).

When President Lincoln was accused of treating his opponents with too much kindness, and when it was pointed out to him that his whole duty was to destroy them, he answered: **'Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?'**

2. Paul Was an Enemy of God—Until He Realized the Love of Christ!

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
(Galatians 2:20)

CONCLUSION:

1. Not easy to love our enemies!
2. But God Loved Us Even When We Were His Enemies!

(1 John 4:10–11)