

# Love One Another

John 13:34-35  
May 7, 2023 | Jason Finley

**Big Idea:** Our love for one another is the identifying trait of the church.

## I. Christ's Command: "Love One Another" (v. 34a)

**John 13:34a** | A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another:

### 1. We were created to love

**Deuteronomy 6:5** | You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

**Leviticus 19:18b** | you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

### 2. Our love is marred by sin

**Titus 3:3** | For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

### 3. Jesus restores and reorders our love

**Matthew 22:37-40** | 37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

**Galatians 5:14** | For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

## II. Christ's Measure: "As I" (v. 34b)

**John 13:34** | 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.

### 1. Distinctive

*Eros v. Agape*  
natural v. supernatural

- **Persevering (13:1)**

**John 13:1** | Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end...

- **Serving (13:4-5)**

**John 13:4-5** | 4 rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

- **Sacrificing (John 15:12-13)**

**John 15:12-13** | 12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

### 2. Demonstrated

**1 John 3:14, 16, 18** | We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers... By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.... Let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

"Jesus got involved at the price of a cross; how can it be that there is so little of his cross about our living? To love means to be vulnerable, it means accepting responsibility; it means giving ourselves away. Is this perhaps the reason why we are so uninvolved with human need so much of the time—our refusal to take up the cross?

Do we not all have to confess to a selfishness which clings to its rights, to our material affluence, to our hoarded leisure time, to our family privacy, to our right to order our lives for ourselves, and which resists having our lives shaken up and disordered by the unpredictable and demanding responsibility of really caring for others in need?"

—Bruce Milne, *We Belong Together*

**Romans 5:7-8** | 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**Application:**

- Select one person to whom you need to demonstrate this distinct love.
- How would he/she know your love is more like Christ's?

### **III. Christ's Promise: "By this all will know" (v. 35)**

**John 13:35** | By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

People today don't care about doctrine, but they do care about love. The world is not impressed by anything about us but the love of Christ, nor should they be. *If we fail to love one another in ways so striking that we actually start looking like Jesus, then the world has the right to judge that we know nothing of him.*

– **Ray Ortlund**

Our love for one another is not equal to evangelism.

Our love for one another empowers our evangelism.

On our own, such love is impossible!

**Romans 8:3** | For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do.

## IV. Christ's Provision

### 1. Empowerment from the Holy Spirit

**Galatians 5:22** | "But the fruit of the Spirit is love..."

**1 Corinthians 13:13b** | "the greatest of these is love."

**Romans 8:11** | "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."

### 2. Motivation in the Gospel

- Do you see yourself as a recipient of such distinctive love from Christ?

**Romans 8:32** | "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"

## Benediction

**1 John 4:10-11** | 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.