



## **ABIDE Weekly Devotions: Week Six**

By Angelina Roundfield

“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”

### **John 15:12-13**

In these two verses, Jesus commands the disciples to love one another. I immediately take notice of this command simply because it is a command and not a suggestion. In previous verses, Jesus tells the disciples more than once that if you love me, you will keep my commandments, and if you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. Jesus tells them these things so that His joy is in them and that their joy may be full.

As a Christian and a disciple, I am commanded to love others just as Jesus loves me, but this is not always so easy. Jesus commands to love not when it feels

right, or when everyone likes you, or even when everything is going your way. He commands us to simply love one another; period. Sometimes I may not like everyone or even enjoy being around certain people or agree with their views; however these things do not change Jesus' commandment.

How often do we stop loving people when we decide that we do not like them, dislike what they say or what they stand for? How often do we cast people aside because they cannot do anything for us or do not add value to us lives? How often do we say that some people just simply cannot be loved? How often do we choose to simply not love because we convince ourselves that it is easier to hate? How often do we put our values and rules over what Jesus ultimately commands of us?

As disciples, we are all called and commanded to love one another, regardless of how we feel about people. Jesus commands this of us because it is clear evidence of our love for Him and is a testament that we are His disciples. If as a body we cannot unify collectively and love one another across racial lines, political lines, socioeconomic lines, and denominations, how can we expect the world to join the body of Christ?

I believe Jesus was not only speaking to the disciples that currently followed Him in His time, but also to the future disciples He knew would come. I believe He knew that commanding future disciples to simply love without regard to outside circumstances was and is the key to open doors and the key to open hearts. He wants His joy to be in us, and for us to live out of this joy as we love others unwaveringly by his example.

And what is love you may ask? Jesus was and is love. For there is no greater love than Christ, the one who laid down His life for His friends.

**That's love.**

