



Message Six ... Love One Another **Pastor Mike Chapman**

Jesus knew that relationships are the most valuable assts that we can have, but at times they are the most difficult to maintain. In fact, his command "to love one another" is the most difficult thing he asked us to do. Our diversity makes love hard. It is also our diversity that makes love necessary.

This command – "to love one another" – is found in the New Testament 11 times. I think it would be safe to say, this is important! The first place it occurs is in John 13:34-35 ...

I give you a new commandment—to love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. Everyone will know by this that you are my disciples—if you have love for one another. NET

OUR PATTERN FOR LOVING

In what way is this a "new commandment?"

It is new because of the **depth** of love to which Jesus is calling us.

"Just as I have loved you"

The "Jesus kind of love" is our pattern.

Our call is to live our lives **out of his love.**

The entire chapter (John 13) provides us with a picture of the “Jesus kind of love.”

It is laying aside **status** in order to become a **servant**.

It’s loving and serving the ones who will **hurt** you.

The “Jesus kind of love” was so radically new that God had to “**invent**” a new word for it.

Agapé – a love by choice not emotion, a love that finds its initiation in the character of the lover rather than in the worthiness of the one being loved.

OUR POWER FOR LOVING

John 15:5, 9-12, *Apart from me you can accomplish nothing...Just as the Father has loved me, I have also loved you; remain in my love. If you obey my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be complete. My commandment is this—to love one another just as I have loved you.* NET

The vital power of our abiding relationship with Jesus makes this kind of love possible.

This new commandment is only possible **supernaturally**.

1 Peter 1:22-23, *Love each other deeply with all your heart for you have been born again.* NLT

Romans 5:5, *God has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.* NLT

OUR PURPOSE FOR LOVING

John 13:35, *All people will know that you are my followers if you love each other.*"

It is the "Jesus kind of love" that makes our faith **attractive**.

The church is to be the exact opposite of what we typically see and experience in the world.

We are to be Christ's dynamic **presence** in the world.

Our success in carrying out the mission of Jesus depends on two things: (1) the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and (2) the mutual love shared within our community of faith.

1 John 4:12 *No one has ever seen God with human eyes; but if we love one another, God truly lives in us. Consequently God's love has accomplished its mission among us.* TV