

**HEALTHY CHURCH FUNDAMENTALS (Part 1)**  
**Love One Another – John 13:34, 35**

**(Luke 14:26-27) "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.**

There are **three** fundamentals of a healthy church - "**Love, Service and Forgiveness**

**Love**

**(John 13:34-35) "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."**

A "**New commandment,**" **not** a "new suggestion!"

**(1 Corinthians 13:1-3) Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.**

**Agape** – affection, good will, benevolence, a love feast

**(1 John 4:7-11) Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.**

**In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**

**(1 John 4:20-21) If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.**

If we are unwilling to love fellow believers, we will have a “problem” with God!

(Proverbs 18:1) A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.

Unconditional love requires relationships which are, *at times*, “uncomfortable!” “Holy Sandpaper!”

(1 Peter 1:22-23) Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.

- 1) Purify your soul. 2) Obey God’s truth (God’s word). 3) Spirit – Walk in the Spirit.
- 2) (Galatians 5:16) I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

What does “fervent love” among believers look like, in practice? 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Remember love is not a “feeling” but a choice!

“Chose” to “practice,” exercise, “fervent love” daily!

(Colossians 3:14) But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

(Ephesians 4:22-24) “...that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

(1 Peter 4:8) “And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”

### CONCLUSION:

(Matthew 22:36-40) “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

“Love God,” and “love people!” And God will do the rest!