

One Another

Week 1: Love One Another

We're more connected than ever in certain ways, and yet many people are deeply lonely. We can attend the same service, sing the same songs, hear the same sermon, and then slip out without ever really entering into life together.

The Christian life was never meant to be lived in isolation. When Jesus saves us, He brings us into a family. **Yet still a family formed by the Spirit of God.**

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34-35

1) Love Is the Evidence of _____

They have seen more of Jesus up close than almost anyone else. Now Jesus tells them how the world will recognize them.

He says they will know His disciples by their love for one another. Jesus places love at the center of the visible witness of His people.

The evidence of discipleship is not just that we say true things about Jesus. It's that His life begins to show up in the way we treat each other.

Does Jesus change the way you handle conflict, disappointment, inconvenience, and people who are hard to love?"

All of us have gaps between what we believe and how we actually live. If our love is the evidence, then the way we treat one another is part of our witness.

2) Jesus _____ the Standard of Love

Jesus doesn't say, "Love one another." He says, *"As I have loved you, so you must love one another."* That little phrase changes everything.

Jesus gets up from the meal, takes off His outer clothing, wraps a towel around His waist, pours water into a basin, and begins washing His disciples' feet.

The Son of God kneels before His friends. He washes the feet of Peter, who will soon deny Him.

Jesus' love is humble. It moves toward people instead of waiting for them to deserve it. His love serves in practical ways. It doesn't need applause. It doesn't insist on being treated as important before it will pick up the towel. Soon after this moment, Jesus will go to the cross.

When He says, "As I have loved you," He is pointing toward sacrificial love.

Many of us are comfortable with love as long as it stays convenient.

Loving like Jesus does not mean we never have boundaries.

- It doesn't mean we enable sin.
- It doesn't mean we ignore harm.
- It doesn't mean we pretend everything is fine when it isn't.

Jesus loved with truth. Jesus loved with holiness. Jesus loved with wisdom.

He confronted, corrected, and called people to repentance.

Jesus calls us into something deeper than convenience. *"As I have loved you"* means we learn to move toward one another with humility.

It means we ask, "What would love require of me here?" and then we listen for the Spirit's answer.

The command of Jesus is simple enough for a child to understand and deep enough to reshape every relationship in our lives.

3) Biblical Love Is _____, Not Passive

Jesus says, "Love one another." That means love is something we practice. It's something we do. It has movement, words, choices, habits, and follow-through.

Biblical love acts for the good of another person because Christ has loved us first.

Romans 12:10 says, *"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."*

1 Peter 4:8-9 says, *"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling."*

Galatians 6:2 says, *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."*

This kind of love is deeply needed right now, because we live in a culture that trains us to be consumers. Without realizing it, we can bring that mindset into the church.

We can evaluate the church mainly by what we receive. The church is a body. The church is a family. The church is a people purchased by the blood of Jesus and brought together by the Spirit of God.

Imagine what would happen if this command of Jesus became normal among us. It happens when the people of God receive the command of Jesus personally and love one another.

What's one step you can take?

Maybe your next step is to stop slipping in and out anonymously and begin moving toward community.

Maybe your next step is to repair a relationship.

Maybe your next step is to practice hospitality.

Maybe your next step is to notice.

Maybe your next step is to stay.

The mark of the church is love. By God's grace, that mark can become clearer among us.