

John 13:31-35 | Love One Another

Congregational Reading.

A Woman's Great Faith.

Matt. 15:21-28

Responsive Reading

Q4: How did God create us?

A4: God created us male and female in His own image to know Him, love Him, live with Him, and glorify Him. And it is right that we who were created by God should live to His glory. (Gen. 1:27)

Q5: What else did God create?

A5: God created all things by His powerful Word, and all His creation was very good; everything flourished under His loving rule. (Gen. 1:31)

Q6: How can we glorify God?

A6: We glorify God by enjoying Him, loving Him, trusting Him, and by obeying His will, commands, and law. (Deut. 11:1)

Prayer.

Sermon Text.

John 13:31-35 | Love One Another

"Therefore, when he/Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "**Now** is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him; if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and will glorify Him immediately.

Little children, I am **with you** a little while longer. You **will seek Me**; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, '**Where I am going, you cannot come.**'

"**A new commandment** I give to you, that you **love one another, even as** I have loved you, that you also **love one another.**

By this **all men will know** that you are **My disciples**, if you have **love for one another.**"

Intro:

I. Exegesis of John 13:31-35.

a. Now – now that Judas is gone. Now that Judas has been dispatched into the night to do his dark work of betrayal, now Jesus is going to get to the heart of His love and promises to His disciples.

Now that that betrayal has been made clear, now it is time to be to the heart of Christian life.

Now it is time to get to the core of Christ's heart and the core of a Christians heart.

Now it is time to identify what a Christian is and does. Now that Judas is gone, and only these 11 remain, these true disciples, it is time to emphasize to them what is at the heart of Christianity.

Now is the time to get to the good stuff. Now is the time to see clearly.

2 Cor. 6:2 'now is THE ACCEPTABLE TIME,' behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION"

Not tomorrow, NOW! Not yesterday, NOW! It is immediate. It is not delay. It is NOW! It is clear, it is present, it is right NOW.

It is NOW, "that we commend ourselves as servants of God." 2 Cor. 2:4

It is NOW, that we "in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; regarded as deceivers and yet true; as unknown yet well-known, as dying yet behold, we live; as punished yet not put to death, as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things."

It is NOT tomorrow. It is NOT tomorrow that you bring glory to God it is NOW. IT is NOT tomorrow that you love one another, it is NOW.

When will you prove that you are Christ's disciples? Not yesterday, right NOW!

We are NOT promised tomorrow, prove your love NOW. Prove it! Show it! Demonstrate God's glory by loving one another!

Stop being selfish. Stop holding grudges. Stop grumbling. Give God glory by loving one another NOW!

Dispatch the betrayer into the night, and give God glory, and love one another, NOW!

Do not delay, do not resist. Choose today whom you will serve. Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.

One that fateful day, will He have commanded your life, or will you have commanded your own?

The betrayer has given his heart to Satan and has gone into the night. But these 11, they belong to Christ. He owns them. They are His chosen race. They are His royal priesthood. They are a people of His own possession. They are His slaves. He is their good master. He will Shepherd their soul and do so with an easy burden, with light yoke.

Their duty is His glory. Their promise is Heaven. Their practice is prayer. Their method is preaching. Their purpose is evangelism. Their priority is souls. They cannot get caught up on self-proclivities.

He has given Peter the kingdom keys. The very gates of heaven can be opened and closed by the message He has given them.

Eph. 2 'every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies' is now held on the keychain of this message.

b. The Son of Man is glorified. God is glorified in Him; if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and will glorify Him.

Glory. 5x in two verses. The Glory of God. The Glory of Christ. One in the same together. Bound together, right now.

The Son's glory is seen in obedience to God and God's glory is seen in the presence of Christ.

Glory. 1. To influence one's opinion about another so as to enhance the latter's reputation. 2. To cause to have splendid greatness.

c. Where I am going you cannot come.

Where is He going? 1. the Cross. 2. the grave. 3. Heaven.

They cannot go to the cross because we cannot die for anyone's sins.

We cannot go to the grave because those who believe in Christ never die.

We cannot go to Heaven, YET, because God has a mission for our life.

That mission is to bring Him glory by loving one another.

d. New commandment, love one another, as He has loved us.

Almost all examples of this concept of love in the NT is partnered with αλληλους/one another. Love one another.

e. Discipleship. This is an act of effective discipleship.

Others will become aware of you being Christ's disciples by loving one another.

II. Theology of Love. p. 181-182, 411, 516-17, 519

Love one another as Christ loves us.

How is God a loving God? How is it that God demonstrates His means of love?

God has created the world and God has done so with order, and specificity, and certainty.

There is an order, a specificity, and a certainty to God's love. God's love always brings God glory, God's love always represents His properly, God's love always brings honor to the name of Christ.

God's love is abundant. God's love seen toward people.

Deut. 4:37 'Because **He loved your fathers**, therefore He chose their descendants after them. And He personally brought you from Egypt by His great power'

Deut. 7:8, 13 'but because the **LORD loved you** and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and **His lovingkindness** to a thousand generation with **those who love Him and keep His commandments**; but repays those who hate Him to their faces, to destroy them; He will not delay with those who hates Him, He will repay him to his face.' (**Corem Deo, face to face, love or judgement**) v. 13 '**He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock, in the land which He swore to your forefathers to give you.**'

Deut. 10:15 'Yet on your fathers did the **LORD set His affection to love them**, and He chose their descendants after them, even you above all peoples, as it is this day.'

Deut. 23:5 'Nevertheless, the LORD your God was not willing to listen to Balaam, but the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you because **the LORD your God loves you.**

2 Chron. 2:11 'Because the LORD loves His people, He has made you king over them.' (Hiram, king of Tyre to Solomon) When God wants to show love to His people, God gives those people wise, loving leadership. When God wants to judge His people, He gives them wicked leadership.

God shows His love through means of world circumstances.

Isa. 43:4 'you are precious in My sight, since you are honored and I love you, I will give other men in your place and other peoples in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth, everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory, whom I have formed, even whom I have made.'

Isa. 48:14 'Assemble, all of you, and listen!...The LORD loves him' (Ref. to Cyrus the Great)

Isa. 63:9 'In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them; in His love and in His mercy He redeemed them, and He lifted them and carried them all the days of old. But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; therefore He turned Himself to become their enemy, **He fought against them.**' God will be faithful to His cause.

Jer. 31:3 'The LORD appeared to him from afar, saying, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.'

Hos. 11:1, 4 'When Israel was a youth I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son. I lead them with cords of a man, with bonds of love, and I became to them as one who lifts the yoke from the jaws; and I bent down and fed them.' God has always in a miraculous way delivered His love to His people and it has been seen by many incredible means.'

Hos. 14:4 'I will heal their apostasy. I will love them freely.'

Zeph. 3:17 'The LORD your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.' The joy of God and the love of God often go together.

Mal. 1:2 'I have loved you, says the LORD. But you say, "How have You loved us?" "Was Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. Yet I have loved Jacob; but I have hated Esau' Q: How has God shown His love? Through selecting, choosing the disciples, and rejecting Judas, a greedy betrayer. into the night.

God does not just love people but virtues. God's love is seen in virtues. (Ex. justice and righteousness)

Ps. 11:7 'For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; the upright will behold His face' God loves the behaviors, the actions, of doing right.

Ps. 33:5 'He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the lovingkindness of the LORD.'

Ps. 37:28 'For the LORD loves justice and does not forsake His godly ones; they are preserved forever, but the descendants of the wicked will be cut off.' God takes virtues seriously.

Virtueous behavior can always be witness by its ability to stand on its own. In other words, virtueous behavior does not seek outside alliance. It does not seek to garner favors. Virtuous behaviors, those that are like the character of God, do not need the approval of man. Emmons, book on Selfishness, the morally depraved always seek 1. security and 2. the majority. Q:WHY because they have no security in their virtue and no power in their value.

Ps. 45:7 'You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed you above You with the oil of joy above Your fellows.'

God's love is ultimately between the three persons of the Trinity

John 3:35 'Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.

5:20 'For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel'

10:17 'For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life' Christ lays down His life in an ultimate sense, but we are called to lay down our life on a cyclical sense. To forfeit our greeds, trust Him for our needs, and obey Him in our deeds.

14:31 'but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me.' What a great prayer. Could we pray anything better than to pray Father have me do exactly as you would have me do. Christ's love to God is seen in His complete surrender to His plan.

15:9 'as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love'

17:24, 26 'Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.'

This love shows God's affection. God has affections. God has emotions. God is not subject to His emotions and ebbs and flows in an uncontrolled emotionally way as the Greek gods would have been seen. Instead, God's emotions and affections always flow out of His holy disposition that is constant, perfect, and persistent.

God's love is manifested in Christ's sacrifice for sin

John 15:13 'Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.'

God's love for the world, the church, and individuals.

John 3:16 'For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.'

Rom. 5:7-8 'For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone

1 John 4:9-10 '**love is from God**, and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this **the love of God was manifested in us**, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live in 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.**'

God's essence is love.

1 John 4:8, 16 'the one who does not love does not know God, for God is love... 'We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in Him.'

There is a **kind of love that God hates**, and it is a **selfish love**. Not all things are equal with God.

III. Systematic Theology of Love. p. 375, 378, 414, 653

a. Love of God

This love is seen in glory here in Christ's substitutionary death. This ἀγάπη/agape, love, is the ultimate demonstration of love. Ultimate/Apex/Pinnacle/Climaxing illustration

"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" John 15:13

There is a place that **this love is called for in human relationships**, it is first seen in marriage.

Eph. 5:25 'Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her'

Love is a communicable attribute of God's divine character.

It is put on its highest display on the cross and believes are capable of living this selfless love when indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

'I am going to send the Helper' -What does the Helper help the helpless in? In this kind of love.

Love can be understood as a conscious, sacrificial, and volitional commitment to the welfare of another person. Regardless of that other person's response. Regardless of what the other person does.

This type of love doesn't 'hedge its bets.' Doesn't consider what it gave get, focuses on what it can give. What it can contribute.

This type of love is a gate way to a host of a list of other behaviors.

Walk in the Spirit.

Gal. 5:22 'love' that leads to 'joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control'

Love displays itself in these greater ways.

b. Love is seen in the **Image of God**, the Imago Deo.

Jesus is the Image of God to mankind.

Jesus is the representation of the love of God to mankind.

Jesus is the manifestation of the love of God to mankind.

John 14:9 'whoever has seen me has seen the Father'

Jesus tells His disciples that He will send His spirit, the Helper, to help you be the representation/manifestation of God's love to mankind.

IV. Apologetic and Polemic of Love in modern culture.

There is an apprehension in our age to be openly loving and I will be clear about this, it is for reasons; one is for selfishness, the other is for unforgiveness, and the third is for disapproval of godless lifestyles.

We live in a **very hateful generation**. The reason that this generation is so hateful is because it is so selfish. This generation has been **taught and catechized in loving themselves**.

You will never come across a self-less person that is hateful. Only selfish people are hateful.

Their logic is confusion. **Their reason** is clouded. **Their conclusions** always go unconcluded.

Why? Because they think the universe revolves around them. That person, no matter how much they try to convince you, is a hateful person. **Hate always originates in self-will.**

This type of person is loveless, listless, and lost. They are hateful and unloving.

'because of the increase of wickedness/lawlessness the love of many will grow cold' Matt. 24

What's interesting is that God actually hates this kind of person. You might not want to believe or accept that, but the selfish person is actually a person hated by God. They move themselves away from the grace of God and establish their own system of authority, commands, direction, worship, instruction.

Six things that God hates, yes seven are an abomination. These are people, people that are highlighted by their behaviors. People will misrepresent this and say, 'well yes, God hates these behaviors, but not these people' – no that's wrong. Behaviors are fruits of a tree. It is the tree, it is the root than the axe will go toward. God hates the wicked tree and the seeds at its root.

Ps. 11:5 'the LORD tests the righteous and the wicked, and the one who loves violence His soul hates. Upon the wicked He will rain snares'

Pro. 6:16-17 'There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him; Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers.'

God hates those things and the people that do them. All of those things come out of selfishness.

Self-love. Self-promotion. Self-aggrandizement. Self-approval. This is so much so the case in our age that it has even seeped into how church is designed and practiced.

Service-industry, Customer-service. Enterprising operations.

Today in our age this mode of behavior is actually encouraged. This selfishness style of love is encouraged and endorsed across society.

Hebrews 13 "let love continue

Because of this rampant selfishness, authority is impuned. Family authority from Ex. 20:12. Church authority is impuned, Heb. 13. Societal authorities, Rom. 13. All because of the selfishness of people. for confronting a persons selfish motives, instructions are not followed, corners are cut to appeal to personal desires,

'Rebuke a fool and you, yourself will get stripes' Prov.

Ecc. 8:11 'Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.'

a. Selfishness.

Nathaniel Emmons, *Selfishness: The Essence of Moral Depravity*. 1600's pastor in Connecticut.

Emmons highlights a number of great observations in the book, but there are two that might allude us when it comes to a lack of Christian love.

1. Selfishness is the essence of all moral depravity.
2. Selfish people are always seeking personal security. That is why they are greedy, lustful, and lying.
3. Selfish people always follow and attend to the program of the majority.

b. Unforgiveness is a display of selfishness.

Unforgiveness is a spiritual act of self-love and hatred toward the other person.

There is **no such thing as an unforgiving Christian**. Forgiveness is an act of love. Forgiveness is a demonstration of love.

'greater love has no man than to lay down his life for his brothers' – What are you other than the collect of things that you affirm and disaffirm? At your core you are a person that has values and ethos, and when those values and ethos are transgressed you enter a period of unforgiveness. YET, what we find in most claimed-Christian circles today is what people are **offended over is their individual self-pride**. A person who is offended because God's will was transgressed has no trouble forgiving because Christ has already set the value and ethos of forgiveness. A person unwilling to forgive demonstrates they are merely living in their own flesh and selfish desires.

As a principle – ALWAYS lay down your self-interests, NEVER lay down God's principles! Always concede your selfish-desires, never concede on God's desires.

Unforgiving people make themselves out to be the god of their life. They establish their own standard of forgiving or not forgiving and in that they hold in their own life the highest standard of authority to forgive. Ultimately, they subconsciously profess deity of themselves. They are a self-worshipper.

They do not 'love one another' -they love themselves and love others who love themselves and those kinds of people collect themselves in a shallow belief system that props up their mutual self-love.

People like that cannot stand under the pressures of teaching like last week's teaching of **'free-will or determinism'** – They cannot accept God's pre-determined will because it overwhelms them in their self-will. Ultimately showing everyone how self-motivated and self-directed their life is.

That person is selfish. There's nothing else to it. They are selfish and they do not fulfill the command to love one another.

c. Disapproval of Godless lifestyles.

Selfishness

You cannot be coerced in to approving people's godless apostasy by justifying it with the idea of love. That's not love – that's idolatry!

What would be loving would be for that person to 'resist the devil' and 'he would flee', to love God more than their sinful lifestyle.

V. Application.

God loves His glory. God loves to put His glory on display. How will God put His glory on display?

He puts His glory on display in a 1000 different unrecognize and disregarded ways every day.

How will God bring Himself glory, and How will God glorfy Himself among us? By loving one another.

God gets glory by putting His love on display by us loving one another. It's that simple.

Moses asked God 'show me Your glory' – here is. Now is the time. Here is His glory. It is seen in His new commandment – love one another.

Hebrews 13 – outline. Of loving one another behavior.

To love one another shows we are Christ's disciples.

a. 'αλληλους' - How do you demonstrate that you are a disciple of Christ? Christ tells us the way that you will do this is by loving others.

b. 'δοξα' -What brings God glory? Obeying His commands. What are His commands? Loving one another.

c. 'εντολη' - Commands. Directions. Precepts. Teachings. Here it is. Love one another.

How do we do this? It really is pretty simple and it is very powerful.

Selfishness inhibits God's love. Selflessness demonstrates God's love.

God's love brings God glory and puts His glory on display among us.

Loving one another proves that we are disciples to those outside of the church. Loving one another works as an unspoken evangelistic tool.

Review John 13 – 17 on Christ's love. It is a key identification of a Disciple.

Weekly Email.

John 13:31-35 | Love One Another "In this passage Jesus gives His disciples a new commandment; love one another. Exhibit the same care that He has and Christ says that this will both give glory to God and show others that you are His disciples."

Small Group/Kids

1. What commandment does Jesus give to His disciples?
2. What previous commandments has Jesus given and what are the relevance of these commandments? Ref. 10 Commandments, Sermon on Mount
3. What does it mean to love one another? What does it not mean?
4. How does selfishness inhibit God's love? How does God show His love?
5. What can we do to demonstrate God's love to one another and this be a proof that we are Christ's disciples?

