

Deeply and Daily

INTRODUCTION

Imagine with me for just a moment if we truly loved each other *deeply* and *daily*. And what it will take for us to do so?

I want to demonstrate to you this morning from the Scriptures why I believe we are commanded, not suggested, to love one another deeply and daily.

Consider John 13:34-35:

³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

The WHAT

This word in the Greek for "command" is the same word Jesus used whenever He spoke about the commandments in the Old Testament, in fact whenever He spoke about the Ten Commandments. This is not an exhortation. This is not a suggestion. This is not an ideal.

It's a commandment. And it's a commandment that is new and unique to the Church of Jesus Christ. We are called to love one another.

Agape, not phileo, not storge

And the word for love here is agape. Again, this is not *phileo*, that friendship kind of love. That emotional kind of love. I hope we have that. I hope you experience that with at least a few. But this is not an emotional kind of love primarily, rather volitional. It's a matter of the will. It's a choice. I choose to love you.

This is not a *storge* kind of love either, which was the Greek word to describe a family kind of love. That is, that natural, instinctual love that a parent has for a child or siblings have for one another, even if they drive each other crazy.

No, this is not a natural kind of love. This is a *supernatural* kind of love.

And we are *commanded* to do it.

The HOW

And Jesus wants His followers to love one another. And not just a little. Look at the passage again with me:

*³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. **As I have loved you, so you must love one another.**"*

So in the first half of this verse, Jesus gives His command. That's the WHAT. And in the second half of the verse, He describes HOW He wants this command to be obeyed. He says, "Love one another as I have loved you."

How has Jesus loved us?

Peter picks up on this idea in his first letter to the churches in Asia Minor.

²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

1 Peter 1:22-23

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth, that is, by believing the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ. By believing in the Gospel, you have been washed clean of your sins. As a result of that there is this seed of supernatural love in your heart. It wasn't there before, but now the Spirit of God indwells you and there is this sincere love for other believers that wasn't there before. But there is a kinship of spirit with other believers, that again is not natural, but supernatural. And it's sincere.

But Peter says, it's time to go deeper.

We will love one another deeply. But not only that, DAILY.

Consider **Hebrews 3:7-14** and **Hebrews 10:23-25**

SO... what will it take for our church to love one another deeply and daily? Couple thoughts and then we'll close.

- Refuse to be challenged but not changed.
- Sit down and prioritize your daily/weekly schedule to prioritize your life around Body Life.
- Join a small group
- Ask the Spirit to fill you and then step out in faith
- Love One Another Task Force

The WHY

Jesus says the WHAT, the HOW, and now the WHY:

³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Personal Reflection/Discussion Questions

- 1.) Why is so important to remember that "love one another" is a command and not a suggestion or ideal?
- 2.) Distinguish between a "sincere" love and a "deep" love? (see 1 Peter 1:22) Give examples of both.
- 3.) How might loving other believers deeply and daily change your daily schedule and priorities?
- 4.) What will it take for the church to truly obey this command of Christ?
- 5.) Take some time to pray that you, your spouse and family, and finally the church would begin walking in full obedience to this command.

