

## Love One Another

*Gospel of John, Part LIV*

John 15:12-17

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### I. Final Discourses

- 15:1-11 – The Relationship of Believers to Christ
- 15:12-17 – The Rel. of Believers to One Another
- 15:18-16:4 – The Rel. of Believers to the World
- 16:5-16 – The Rel. of Believers to the Holy Spirit

### II. Love and Law

A. Review: Love One Another (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.”*

B. Love Keeps the Commandments (14:15, 21, 23-24 cf. Rom 13:8-10)

True love keeps the commandments of God. To love my neighbor is to treat him \_\_\_\_\_ from the heart. *“Love is the fulfillment of the law”* (Romans 13:8,10).

C. What is the Greatest Commandment? (Mk 12:28-34a)

*“The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these”* (Mk 12:29ff).

1. Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, & strength (cf. 15:1-11)

2. Love your neighbor as yourself (cf. 15:12-17)

### III. Love One Another

A. A Thematic Sandwich

B. The Bread: Love One Another (12, 17 cf. Eph 5:2)

We are to love one another even as \_\_\_\_\_ has loved us. His love is the pattern for our love for one another. What does it mean to love my neighbor *as myself*? It means to love him as Christ has loved me.

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
  - A. The Son of God Revealed (1:19-4:54)
  - B. The Son of God Rejected (5:1-12:36)
  - C. Conclusion (12:37-50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
  - A. Introduction: He knew His hour had come (13:1)
  - B. Jesus Prepares the Disciples for His Departure (13:2-17:26)
  - C. Jesus Departs this world to the Father (18:1-20:29)
  - D. Conclusion: Purpose of the Gospel (20:30-31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

### C. The Meat: As I Have Loved You (13-16)

#### 1. Sacrificial (13 cf. Phil 2:5-11; 1 Jn 3:16)

At the heart of Christ-like love is a willingness to sacrifice oneself for one's brethren. John writes in his first epistle, "By this we know love, because [Jesus] laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (3:16). If we truly love one another, then we will consider the needs and interests of others.

*Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it [something to be held onto] to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross (Phil 2:5-9)*

Biblical love is not *narcissistic* but *altruistic*; not \_\_\_\_\_-focused but \_\_\_\_\_-focused.

#### 2. Obedient (14)

The second characteristic of Christ-like love is that it is obedient. *You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.*

#### 3. Gracious (15 cf. 15:20; James 2:1-9)

Christ-like love stoops down to those who are in a lower station and treats them with dignity and respect. Though the disciples remain Jesus' servants, He does not belittle them for their inferior position. He graciously calls them \_\_\_\_\_.

*<sup>1</sup> My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. <sup>2</sup> For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, <sup>3</sup> and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," <sup>4</sup> have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup> Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? <sup>6</sup> But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? <sup>7</sup> Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called? <sup>8</sup> If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; <sup>9</sup> but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. (James 2:1-9)*

#### 4. Proactive (16 cf. Mt 5:23-24; Rom 12:9-13; Eph 1:5; 1 Jn 4:19)

Finally, Christ-like love is proactive. How did Christ reveal His love for the disciples? He *chose* them as His own and *appointed* them to be His emissaries to the rest of the world. He \_\_\_\_\_. Because Christ initiates, our love is to be the same. We are to take the initiative in dealing with sin, solving problems, etc.

## IV. Conclusion