

LOVING LIKE JESUS

INTRODUCTION:

- A. This is the time of year when people look for big ways to express their love for others.
- B. How do we express our love for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ?
- C. The night before He was crucified, Jesus told His disciples how they were to love one another.

A NEW WAY TO LOVE (John 13:31-35)

- A. The commandment to love one another is not a new commandment. The old Law taught that people should love their neighbor as themselves (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:39).
- B. This commandment is new in that it has a change in standard. Jesus commanded His followers to love one another as He had loved them.
- C. The purpose of this new command is seen in the response of those on the outside. People will know we are disciples of Christ by our love for one another.

LOVING AS JESUS LOVED

- A. We must realize that love for others is not optional.
 - 1. This was a new “commandment” given to His disciples, it was not optional (Jn. 13:34-35).
 - 2. Jesus loved those who would have been hard to love (Matt. 9:9-13; Matt. 5:43-44).
 - 3. If we do not love we do not know God, for God is love (I Jn. 4:7-8).
- B. We must be willing to serve others.
 - 1. Jesus was willing to perform a menial task often performed by a servant (Jn. 13:4-9; Lk. 22:27).
 - 2. Is there someone’s feet you are unwilling to wash? Jesus washed even the feet of Judas (v. 11).
 - 3. Paul said we are to serve one another in/through love (Gal. 5:13).
- C. We must be willing to extend grace and forgiveness to others.
 - 1. Jesus did all of this knowing each of His disciples would fall away (Jn. 13:21, 27; 13:36-38; Mt. 26:31-35).
 - 2. It’s easy to love those who love us back and do good toward us. But what about those who hurt us?
 - 3. Jesus forgave Peter who had publicly let Him down (Jn. 21:15-17).
- D. We must realize that love is sacrificial (Jn. 13:1).
 - 1. Jesus went as far as giving His life for those who had hurt him (Jn. 10:17-18; 15:13).
 - 2. What kind of sacrifices are we willing to make to express our love for our brethren?

CONCLUSION:

- A. Do we love one another the way Jesus expects us to love one another?
- B. The church leader Tertullian quoted the pagans as saying of the Christians, “See how they love one another?”
- C. If we want to attract those on the outside, we must have love on the inside.