

## **A BETTER LOVE**

### **John 13:34-35**

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. This past week our country celebrated Valentine's Day. This is a day we celebrate and honor those we love and cherish. It's really easy to love the people we enjoy being with.
- B. Take a good look around this room. The people we see this morning are not just people we attend worship with, they are people we are called to love.

#### **WE ARE COMMANDED TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

- A. Love is not optional in the life of a follower of Jesus. It is not something we get to decide if we will do or not. We are commanded to love one another (Jn. 13:34; Rom. 13:8).
- B. Jesus told the religious leaders of His day that the two greatest commandments hinged on love: love for God and love for others (Mt. 22:37-40).

#### **LOVING OTHERS IS NOT ALWAYS EASY**

- A. There are some people who are hard to love.
- B. Our love for others has nothing to do with whether a person is loveable or deserving (Mt. 5:43-48).

#### **LOVING OTHERS IS PROOF THAT OUR HEARTS BELONG TO JESUS**

- A. The church must love in order to make an impact on the world (Jn. 13:35).
- B. If we truly love God, we will love others too (1 Jn. 3:10; 4:7-8; 19-21).

#### **WAYS WE CAN BETTER LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

- A. Get to know others by spending time together (Acts 2:46).
- B. Treat others the way we want to be treated (Matt. 7:12; Jam. 4:11).
- C. Be others-centered instead of self-centered (1 Cor. 13:5; Phil. 2:3-4).
- D. Forgive and let things go (1 Cor. 13:5; Gen. 50:15-21).

#### **CONCLUSION:**

- A. What kind of church would we be if everyone loved others exactly like you?
- B. We may not be able to make anyone else love others, but we can practice loving one another as Jesus has called us to do.