

38- The Commandment of Love... John 13:34-35;15:12-27

John had more to say about love than any of the other authors that the Holy Spirit used to pen the precious word of God. Jesus gave us the greatest example of love every shown when He died for us while we were enemies of God and the things of God. He also makes it clear in His Word that He expects us to love one another.

It can be said it is easier to love someone who love you or when you know that you are loved. We will spend a few moments this session with the topic being "The commandment to love."

I- A New Commandment:

We skipped past the first occurrence of this in John and will now pick up the two verses from *Joh 13:34-35*. ***A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.***

We see this also restated by Christ is *Joh 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.*

Jesus gave us the commandment to love. Not just a surface love but a deep love beyond human strength. He called us to love others like He loves us. The idea here is not to have a single act of love but *Robertson's Word Pictures* says it is "that ye keep on loving one another."

The basis of us being able to love like this is in the love Christ has for us. A sermon illustration I read recently sums this up for us pretty well.

The minister was retiring, and had delivered his last sermon from the pulpit where he had preached many years. One of the faithful members stopped as she went out the door and asked, "Do you know

what is the most important thing you said in all these years?"

"What was that?" the minister inquired, so he might learn of one way he had helped someone.

"You told us we cannot do anything to get God to stop loving us!" was the quiet reply.

The most important thing that you can learn in life is that God never stops loving you!

-Peter lied about being one of the disciples, but God loved him (Mat 26:70).

-The mothers and their small children were a problem for the disciples, but God loved them (Mat 19:14).

-The woman refused to give Jesus a drink of water from the well, but God loved her (Joh 4:9).

No matter what your life has been like, He still loves you! How much do you love God?

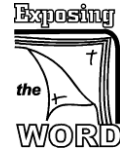
II- Dying for Love:

This point's title can be taken two ways. One is people are dying for someone to love them. Second, it can mean that we love some enough to die for them.

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

The secret service is assigned to protect the president and others as well. As part of their job they will shield the president with their bodies as human shields. This is done out of duty and commitment to the job. Firemen rush into burning buildings to rescue others. Policemen put their lives in danger to protect and rescue.

By contrast we also see that many who would be terrorists hide behind civilians and in houses of worship and cause harm to innocent people who die for the cause but most times not willingly.



Now most of us will never be called upon to give our lives for our friends. Ours will be to give of ourselves.

Let us imitate the barber who one week noticed that there was a good increase in his business. When he tried to find out why, he discovered that his competitor, another barber in the village, was ill. When the week ended, he took all that he had made above his average earnings and carried it to his competitor with his Christian love and sympathy. (www.e-sword.net)

May I observe that while God will probably never call upon us to offer ourselves in death that someone else would live, He certainly calls us to offer ourselves in life to show others life.

III- Love Relationship:

I often think about what motivates us to do the right thing, the godly thing in our relationships. Sure fear can be a motivator but may I suggest the greatest motivator is love. We see Christ example of love and are motivated to follow Him and do as He requests because of our love for Him.

Jesus moves the relationship forward from servant to friend. **John 15:14** *Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. 15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. 16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. 17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.*

In the relationship that brings forth fruit we find it is a love relationship. I have said

many times to people who express their love to me and for me that I know they love me without them telling me. Would you not agree that you can usually tell when someone loves you without being told? Still Jesus told us to love each other.

IV- Hate Relationship:

As easy as it is to recognize love it is also as easy to recognize someone who does not love you.

John 15:18 *If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*

Not a single one of us do not want to be loved by those around us. Why does the world not see the good, hardworking, honest, and caring individuals that Christians usually are? Jesus tells us in **John 15:21** *But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.*

They do not know God. They do not have a relationship with Him that helps them see. Because of this there is another reason that comes out here.

John 15:22 *If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. ...24 *If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.**

Our purpose and motivation for loving each other is that the gospel not be hindered. **John 15:27** *And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.*