

Fairfield Baptist Church – Hamilton

Sunday 25th October 2020 - 10a.m.

‘Love One Another’

John 13:34-35

Introduction

How do you feel when someone gives you a command?

Are you the sort of person that is only to happy for another person to the lead, to have the responsibility, to give the commands?

Just tell me what to do and I'll do it.

Or may be you are the sort of person who finds it hard to receive instructions or commands from someone else.

I know it to some degree depends on the way the command is given as to how the command will be received and obeyed or not.

Again it can depend on who the person is, or what position they hold and what level of authority they may have, to give the command.

Thankfully in the Christian life we are not just left with some vague ideas as how we should live towards other people. We are left with some commands as to what we should do. Human nature is too often very selfish and society at times reinforces the whole idea of looking after self and forgetting others.

Jesus was talking one day with His disciples not that long before the time when He went to the cross. He was telling them that He was going to leave, and that where He was going they could not come.

Then He said;

A new command I give you: Love one another.

As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

By this all men will know that you are my disciples,

if you love one another. John 13:34-35

Let me say three things that help us to accept this command.

1 Remember who Jesus is.

Jesus is God in the flesh. This is not just any man saying that we should love one another. This is God telling us that this is what we should do.

2 Look at the example Jesus set us.

He did tell us to do something that He was not doing or not prepared to do. No He is saying do what I am doing. Love one another 'as I have loved you'.

3 Consider the result if we obey the command.

Listen to what Jesus said:

'By this all men will know that you are my disciples,
if you love one another.'

You see our genuine and sincere love for one another, is one of the greatest witness we have to the love of God.

Two problems for us today.

One - English has only one word for Love.

There are actually four Greek words that communicate a different type of love.

Those words are *Agape*, *Storge*, *Phileo*, and *Eros*.

these are Greek terms, none of them are directly present in the Old Testament, which was originally written in Hebrew. However, these four terms offer a broad overview of the different ways love is expressed and understood throughout the Scriptures.

Agape Love Pronunciation: [Uh - GAH - Pay]

Perhaps the best way to understand agape love is to think of it as the type of love that comes from God. *Agape* is divine love, which makes it perfect, pure, and self-sacrificing. When the Bible says that "God is love" (1 John 4:8), it's referring to *agape* love.

Storge Love Pronunciation: [STORE - jay]

The love described by the Greek word storge is best understood as family love. It's the kind of easy bond that naturally forms between parents and their children -- and sometimes between siblings in the same household. This kind of love is steady and sure. It's love that arrives easily and endures for a lifetime.

Phileo Love Pronunciation: [Fill - EH - oh]

Phileo describes an emotional connection that goes beyond acquaintances or casual friendships. When we experience phileo, we experience a deeper level of connection. This connection is not as deep as the love within a family, perhaps, nor does it carry the intensity of romantic passion or erotic love. Yet *phileo* is a powerful bond that forms a community and offers multiple benefits to those who share it.

Eros Love Pronunciation: [AIR - ohs]

Eros is the Greek term that describes romantic or sexual love. The term also portrays the idea of passion and intensity of feeling. The word was originally connected with the goddess Eros of Greek Mythology.

Two problems for us today.

**Two - how do we as Christians today express our
love for each other?**

This is a question we will look at later this morning.

How do I say I love you to another Christian in today's English speaking world?

We live in a society that does not think at all about Bible love.

Bible Readings

Public Readings (taken for me as part of into)

John 13:34-35

1 John 2:7-8

More Background Readings

1 John 3:16-20

1 John 4:7-12

John 15:12,17

Key Verses

A new command I give you:

Love one another.

As I have loved you, so you must **love one another.**

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,

if you **love one another.**

John 13:34+35

Setting

Thursday night - Night before the crucifixion

Last time with the disciples

The evening meal was being served

The foot washing has taken place

12 disciples are eating with Jesus the most important meal they ever had.

V21 = one of you is going to betray me

Peter asks John to find out from Jesus who it would be

V25 John to Jesus softly

V29 Jesus answers

The one to whom I give this piece of bread

Other disciples do not seem to hear or understand what is going on

Jesus dips the bread into the cup and gives it to Judas and says

“What you about to do, do quickly”

Judas leaves and the betrayal is set in motion

Judas is gone – the false disciple

READ = John 13:31-38

31v Jesus “now is the Son of man glorified and God is glorified in Him.”

Jesus focuses to His own glory = the cross.

I go to the cross -glory for me – glory for the Father

Only John seems to know what is going on – and he is struggling.

V33 = little children or my children

I am leaving – I am going away – disciples I’m leaving you.

I am giving you a new identity – Love each other as I have loved you

1 John is the explanation of this moment

The word **‘my children’** used only here and in 1 John 7 x

The Command – A new command I give you – love one another.

v34 A 'new command' I give to you

The word used only here and in 1 John, 2 John

1 John 2:7-8

1 John helps us to understand what is really happening here, what is being said here. It is like a commentary an explanation.

John in his letters never says love like Jesus loves.

John always says love like God has loved.

1 John 4:10-12

John realises that Jesus is God

John could say –

I reclined at the table with God

God sent Judas out

God shows us how to love

John shows us the love of God in and through Jesus

The love of Jesus is the love of God

Jesus is God – John 1:1,14

Jesus takes the love like I loved and turns it into love as God love, because I am He.

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

What is new about the new commandment?

The command to love is not new.

Lev 19:18 = love your neighbour as yourself.

Told to in the Gospels

John 13:34b = As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

God has never come down to earth as a man before.

The cross has never happened before.

The death of God for man has never happened before.

It does not mean that we copy Jesus.

So what is different.

The Jews didn't do it

The disciples didn't show it – who is the greatest in the kingdom

Jesus shows a new love

The Holy Spirit shed this love abroad in us – through us.

1 John 2:8 I am writing you a new commandment; its truth is seen in Him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light.

Our love will show we are a true/real believer

We show the Gospel transformation by the love we have for each other.

Every believer is literally Christ coming into my life.

We need to see other Christians as Christ to me.

One commentary put it this way.

1) Love enough to serve

John 13 – Jesus washed the disciple's feet

2) Love enough to sanctify

Matt 18:15

Instruction for the church before the church came into being.
We need to be a sanctifying influence on each other.

3) Love enough to suffer

2 Corinthians 12:7

Paul suffered physically, emotionally, spiritually.

Our love is said to go in three directions.

1) Love for God, for the Lord Jesus

V31 – God is glorified

In our love for one another God is glorified.

2) Love for others

As we have been seeing, what we have been talking about.

3) Personal Love

The love of God in me that makes me want to purify myself.

It's not that I love myself above others.

It's that because of God's love in me, I love myself enough to sanctify myself to Him alone.

The Example – As I have loved you.

V 35 = By this will all men know you are my disciples

John 15:12- 13

My command is this: love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.

Here we are talking about being with Jesus, not coping Him but having a relationship with Him.

We love with His love because we are a part of Him.

Jesus says it's my light, my love, it's my life through you.

READINGS

Philippians 2:1-8

1 Corinthians 13:1-8

The Result - Everyone will know that you are my disciples

This is like a badge to wear

How will people know you love God – you love Jesus

4:7 let us love on another for love comes from God

3:14 we know we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers

3:10 by this you will know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are. Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

4:8 anyone who does not love doesn't know God for God is love.

2:9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness, whoever loves his brother lives in the light and there is nothing in him to make him stumble.

First John is a five chapter exposition of John 13:34-35

1 John 3:23 – and this is the command: to **believe** in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and to **love one another** as He commanded us.

One command – to believe and to love one another.

It's a way of life.

It's a way of being.

Why does loving each other cause others to know we are Jesus disciples.

The world does not naturally relate to each other this way.

Many false forms of Christianity today.

You only counterfeit the truth – the real thing.

Are we true? – not just an outward profession.

Ezek 36:24-28 – a new heart, my Spirit in you, follow My ways.

The new heart is the issue – heart transformation.

Heart = the inner person

Acts 15:9

2 Corinthians 4:6

2 Tim 2:22

Hebrews 10:22

Love is the evidence of a transformed heart.

Salvation = Love for God

Love for the Bible

Love for Prayer

Love for one another

Lessons to Learn

What are we known for?

A real follower of Jesus

A church goer

A passenger who does not want to be too involved.

In what way do you give yourself for your brothers and sisters?

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Days of change – some things are new.

You must love each other more and more each day, each week.

Some things are different – better or may be not in your mind.

Love your brothers and sisters through all differences, preferences, wishes.

Love through

Racial difference

Social differences

Age barriers

Rich and poor

1 Peter 4:8 = love cover a multitude of sins

1 Cor 13 = Love never fails

Roman 13:8

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellow man has fulfilled the law.

God loved us so much that He gave us the supreme example and so

“We love him, because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19), not that we loved Him first.

He loved us so much that He willingly gave His one and only unique Son to die for us so that by faith in Him we might have eternal life (John 3:16-17) and in fact, He is the only way to gain eternal life!

If you haven't repented of your sin and trusted in Christ, then you do not presently have eternal life but instead an eternal spiritual death sentence is hanging over you (Rev 20:11-15). Where will you spend your eternity because time is short but eternity is a long, long time.

John 15 :9-15.

9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.

11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

12 My command is this: **Love each other as I have loved you.**

13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

14 You are my friends if you do what I command.

15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Love Gives

Love ever
gives, forgives, outlives,
and ever stands
with open hands,
for while it lives, it gives.
For this is love's prerogative—

to give, and give,
and give."

– John Oxenham

1. O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.
2. O Light that foll'west all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.
3. O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.
4. O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

George Matheson said about this hymn:

My hymn was composed in the manse of Innelan [Argyleshire, Scotland] on the evening of the 6th of June, 1882, when I was 40 years of age. I was alone in the manse at that time. It was the night of my sister's marriage, and the rest of the family were staying overnight in Glasgow. Something happened to me, which

was known only to myself, and which caused me the most severe mental suffering. The hymn was the fruit of that suffering. It was the quickest bit of work I ever did in my life. I had the impression of having it dictated to me by some inward voice rather than of working it out myself. I am quite sure that the whole work was completed in five minutes, and equally sure that it never received at my hands any retouching or correction. I have no natural gift of rhythm. All the other verses I have ever written are manufactured articles; this came like a day-spring from on high.

Love One Another

is our **Worship**

is our **Walk**

is our **Witness**