

The Importance of Loving One Another

Thursday, August 1

Seth Broadhurst

MATTHEW 22:37-40 (CSB)

He said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."

JOHN 13:34-35 (CSB)

"I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

COLOSSIANS 3:12-14 (CSB)

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

- Compassion
- Kindness
- Humility
- Gentleness
- Patience
- Forgiveness
- Love

PAUSE TO REFLECT

Based on what we've covered in the lesson so far, why is love so crucial to our witness?

How does the list above from Colossians 3 align with the Lord's character qualities in Exodus 34? Why is this significant?

What we do comes from who we are. We are loved, and so we ought to love one another.

- 'A new command I give you: love **one another**. As I have loved you, so you must love **one another**' (John 13:34).
- By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love **one another**' (John 13:35).
- My command is this: love **each other** as I have loved you (John 15:12).
- This is my command: love **each other** (John 15:17).
- Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love **one another**, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law (Romans 13:8).
- May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for **each other** and for everyone else, just as ours does for you (1 Thessalonians 3:12).
- Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love **each other** (1Thessalonians 4:9).
- We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the **love all of you have for one another** is increasing (2 Thessalonians 1:3).
- Keep on loving **one another** as brothers and sisters (Hebrews 13:1).
- Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love **one another** deeply, from the heart (1 Peter 1:22).
- Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love **one another**, be compassionate and humble (1 Peter 3:8).
- Above all, love **each other** deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8).
- For this is the message you heard from the beginning: we should love **one another** (1 John 3:11).
- We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love **each other**. Anyone who does not love remains in death (1 John 3:14).
- And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love **one another** as he commanded us (1 John 3:23).
- Dear friends, let us love **one another**, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God (1 John 4:7).
- Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love **one another** (1 John 4:11).
- No **one** has ever seen God; but if we love **one another**, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us (1 John 4:12).
- And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love **one another** (2 John 1:5).

PUTTING INTO PRACTICE

1. Do you agree that the church is the place where unity and love should be modeled?

2. If the criteria of biblical love (agapé) was used to compare the relationships within your church, how well do you think you are doing?

- List the strong points in this domain and why these are good examples for others to imitate.
- Where do you find 'love' missing? Why might this be so?
- What steps are needed in order to rekindle or ignite love and unity in your church?

3. Consider the church(es) in your town, city, and region. What does your unity in Christ look like? How do you love one another?

- What are the barriers to loving one another?
- What steps are needed in order to rekindle or ignite love and unity in your community fellowship?
- What must you do and in what order, so that love and unity abound?