

## WHY LOVE ONE ANOTHER?

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John 15:17-16:4

1. We have seen over the last several weeks that Jesus emphasized the importance of Christians actively loving one another.
  - a. He modeled that love by assuming the role of a servant in John 13.
  - b. He issued a new commandment when He said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have love you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”  
John 13:34-35
  - c. In John 15:12-13 Jesus stated the commandment again, and then defined the kind of love He was talking about.  
“This is my commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.  
**Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for His friends.**”
  - d. The passage we just read begins with, “This I command you, that you love one another.”
2. I think it is safe to say that we cannot be pleasing to God if we do not actively love one another.
3. John later wrote that our salvation is in question if we do not genuinely love other Christians. 1 John 3:10  
10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.  
NOTE: A genuine Christian is going to practice righteousness and love his brothers and sisters in Christ.

### I. The command to love.

- A. It seems to me that Jesus shouldn't have to repeat Himself, but in this instance He repeated Himself repeatedly.
- B. One of the reasons we should love one another is that Jesus commanded us to.
- C. This emphasis is found throughout the New Testament.
  1. 1 Peter 1:22-24  
22 **Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,** 23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.
  2. 1 John 3:11-18  
11 **For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;** 12 not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

13 **Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.** 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. 15 Everyone who hates (fails to actively love) his brother is (no different than) a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

**NOTE: Love that is expressed in word only is worthless.**

## **II. The need for love.**

A. Christians who are serious about their witness are not going to find this world a friendly place.

B. Paul stated a spiritual absolute when he wrote to Timothy, "And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." 2 Timothy 3:12

**NOTE: The world and the Devil do not oppose people who profess to be Christians but have no desire to live a godly life. What we profess to believe is irrelevant unless it actually impacts the way we live.**

C. Christians who go along with the world in order to get along with the world are identified with the wrong crowd according to Jesus. Luke 6:26

"Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for in the same way their fathers used to treat the false prophets."

D. In this passage Jesus pointed out three reasons why His true followers will be hated by this world.

1. We will be hated because this world hates the Lord Jesus Christ. 18

Ps 2:1-3

"Why are the nations in an uproar and the peoples devising a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers take counsel together against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, 3 'Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!'"

2. We will be hated because we are different, or not of this world. 19

a. Eph 5:11

Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

b. Phil 2:14-16

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a **crooked and perverse generation** (God's view), among whom you appear as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

3. We will be hated because, with the exception of genuine Christians, the world does not know God. 21

E. In writing to Jewish Christians who were being persecuted for their faith the writer of Hebrews wrote the following. Heb 10:23-25

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

F. We need to love each other because our mutual love provides a haven in the midst of an unfriendly world.

### **III. The rejection of love.**

A. The people of this world will be without excuse when they stand before God in judgment one day.

B. God's love was clearly revealed by the words, works, and sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus Christ. 22-24

C. God's love is revealed to each generation by the words and works of Spirit-filled believers. 26-27

### **APPLICATION**

1. In John 16:1-4 Jesus pointed out that He wanted His followers to be prepared for what was to come so that they would not stumble.
2. Somehow over the years the church militant has become the church misguided.
3. Misguided in the sense that we now worry more about offending the world than we do about faithfully representing Christ.
4. Early in the history of the church every inhabitant of the Roman Empire had to burn a pinch of incense to the godhead Caesar and say, "Caesar is Lord."
5. Rome did not care what a person actually believed as long as they conformed to the will of the state in outwardly confessing Caesar as Lord.
6. Christians refused to comply because for them Jesus was Lord.
7. Do you give in to the pressure to conform and to get along with the world, or are you faithfully representing Jesus as Savior and Lord?