

# Love One Another

4.7.2020

Main Idea: We are to demonstrate real love, even in difficulty.

*This is what I command you: Love one another.*

—Jesus in John 15.17 (CSB)

Answer me this: What is love? I ask because our answer matters. We live in a culture that struggles to define love. For some, love is a feeling and for others, it is a choice to sacrifice. The problem with the idea that love is a feeling is this: If you can “feel in love,” then you also stop loving when the feeling fades. The only “problem” with the idea that love “is a choice to sacrifice” is that it cuts against the grain of a self-centered culture.

The Biblical understanding of love is one of sacrifice. In the immediate context of today’s passage, Jesus is headed to the Cross and is about to be betrayed (John 18). He is continuing to teach (notice that there is very little black text in John 14-17), and specifically tells them that he has loved them as the Father has loved him (John 15.9). He even clarifies how he is going to continue to love them: “*This is My command: Love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life for his friends*” (John 15.12-13). Jesus is about to do just that...not only for them but for all who would believe in Him.

Friend, Jesus told his disciples to demonstrate love for one another by sacrificing. During this season, we are loving those around us by not doing certain things we would normally do (go to school, Church, gatherings, etc.). We are loving one another by practicing social distancing. But social distancing does not mean that we stay out of touch.

## For Reflection...

-How have you been handling this season? If its been hard, turn first to the Bible and be sure to reach out a friend.

-Who could you contact with a call or text to show that you love them?

-What are some other ways that you can apply today's passage to your life?

*Christ considers us worth his while going to a cross for because he is that good, he is that loving, he made us. —Sam Allberry*



# Love One Another

4.7.2020

Main Idea: We are to demonstrate real love, even in difficulty.

*This is what I command you: Love one another.*

—Jesus in John 15.17 (CSB)

Answer me this: What is love? I ask because our answer matters. We live in a culture that struggles to define love. For some, love is a feeling and for others, it is a choice to sacrifice. The problem with the idea that love is a feeling is this: If you can “feel in love,” then you also stop loving when the feeling fades. The only “problem” with the idea that love “is a choice to sacrifice” is that it cuts against the grain of a self-centered culture.

The Biblical understanding of love is one of sacrifice. In the immediate context of today’s passage, Jesus is headed to the Cross and is about to be betrayed (John 18). He is continuing to teach (notice that there is very little black text in John 14-17), and specifically tells them that he has loved them as the Father has loved him (John 15.9). He even clarifies how he is going to continue to love them: “*This is My command: Love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life for his friends*” (John 15.12-13). Jesus is about to do just that...not only for them but for all who would believe in Him.

Friend, Jesus told his disciples to demonstrate love for one another by sacrificing. During this season, we are loving those around us by not doing certain things we would normally do (go to school, Church, gatherings, etc.). We are loving one another by practicing social distancing. But social distancing does not mean that we stay out of touch.

## For Reflection...

-How have you been handling this season? If its been hard, turn first to the Bible and be sure to reach out a friend.

-Who could you contact with a call or text to show that you love them?

-What are some other ways that you can apply today's passage to your life?

*Christ considers us worth his while going to a cross for because he is that good, he is that loving, he made us. —Sam Allberry*

