

Love One Another.

Our Verse for the day: James 1:5 (KJV) ⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Our devotion today is an outline of the message at Belfield Baptist Church for January 24, 2021.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER John 13:34-35, 15:9-17

John records for us the closing words of Jesus' earthly life. At least 12 times the Lord said "**Love One Another**" in the Bible.

Loving one another is the central element needed in trouble and not troubled times. It is still needed! The world is divided:

Our Nation, our churches our people. 1: Politically, 2. Racially, 3. Economically, and 4. religiously.

The world desperately needs the fulfillment of Jesus' words, **LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**

I. Love is the heart of the commandments

Mt. 22:35-40 ³⁵Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,³⁶Master, which is the great commandment in the law? ³⁷Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is

like unto it, **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.** ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Jesus told the lawyer that all the commandments were complete in this saying in verse 39. WHO IS THY NEIGHBOR?

II. Love is the unique character of Christ

John 13:1 **Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.**

Jesus never stopped loving the people; He loved them to the end. What caused Jesus to touch the leper whom others had scorned? Compassion, love, desire to help.

What motivated Jesus to associate with outcasts of society?

Tax collectors, demon possessed, prostitutes etc.

John tells us Rev 1:5 **And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,**

III. Love is one of the best assurances of conversion.

How much do we love one another? John 13:35 **By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

This can be viewed in a negative way. If you have not love, you are not my disciples.

IV. **Love best characterizes the church. (Ephesus)** To a church hard on heretics but weak on healing the divisions of the brethren, the Lord said; Rev. 2:4 **Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.**

Since love for each other is so central, why is it one of the hardest things to accomplish?

a. We do not know each other.

There is too little of what the scripture calls fellowship.

b. We have difficulty accepting each other. We need to work together.

c. We fail to abide in Christ. The text repeatedly uses the action words of abide, continue, remain. Our love for each other is determined by our love for Christ.

“Love one another!” Jesus said this just before the cross as if to say; IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND THEN WATCH. I’LL SHOW YOU WHAT LOVE IS ALL ABOUT.

Do we love one another, as we should? As we continue to deal with Covid-19, we need to put our complete trust in the Lord.

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