

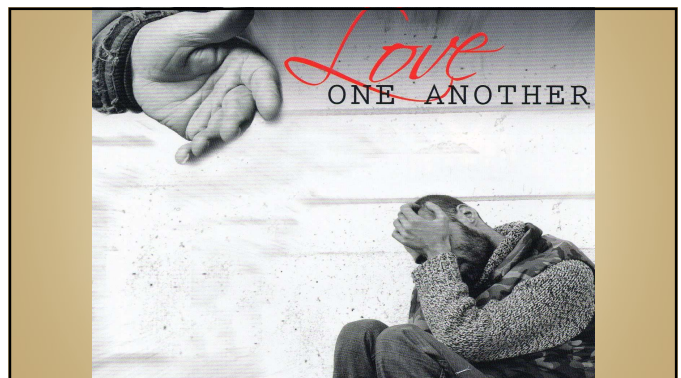


The Command To Love

- 1 Peter 1:22-25 - Holiness is a call to love one another
- John 13:34, 35 - Love One another as I have loved you – Reflect the character of God
- It's a new commandment
 - It is not about duty like the law
 - It is to be in the same way Christ loved
 - It is not optional – you must love
 - It will be your ID
 - It is an act of obedience – 14:23
 - It will be sacrificial - 15:12-13

Who Are We To Love

- Matt.19:19 Love your neighbour as yourself
- Col.3:12-14 - The Family of God
- Lk.10:25-37 - Love your neighbour
 - He wanted to justify himself
 - Who is my neighbour?
 - One who is in need
 - Not my religion
 - At personal expense



How Are We To Love

- 1 Cor.13 – The most excellent way
 - In the context of spiritual gifts
- By being of one unified mind
 - 1 John 1:7
 - Col.3:14
 - Phil.2:1-8
 - There will always be a spirit of unity among those who are determined to know the mind of Christ and follow him

Reflecting The Character of God

- Reflect the character of God by loving those who hate us
 - Matt.5:43-48
 - Loving those who hate us because God loved us while we were still sinners – Rom.5:8
- How do we reflect Christ and love our community?
 - We read Scripture to understand what God likes, then allow His Spirit to transform our character into a likeness of His.
 - See opportunities to show Mercy, Justice and Love

Reflecting The Character of God

- We are to care for foreigners, because you were a foreigner to God – Deut.10:19
- Deut.14:29 - We are to provide for those without, so that God may bless us.
- Deut.24:22 - Help the Helpless because that is what you were spiritually
- Pr.17:5 - To mock the poor is to show contempt for God
- 1Cor.6:9-11 - God changes those caught in sexual sin



Reflecting The Character of God

- Prov.19:17 - God rewards those who are kind to the poor –
- Jer.22:3 - Help those who are oppressed
- Micah 6:8 – Acting Justly, Loving Mercy and Humbly walking with God is required –
- Mal.3:5 - What is God quick to testify against?
- Matt.23:23 - While religious activity is good, justice, mercy, faithfulness, wrapped in love, need to be a part of our character.

Reflecting The Character of God

- Matt.25:31-46 - It is a heart that is transformed to reflect the character of God that the Son Of Man will welcome into His kingdom
- Lk.15:1 –It was the ministry of Christ to help the poor, the prisoners, the blind, the oppressed, the tax collectors and “notorious sinners”
- James 1:27 – What does God consider pure and undefiled religion?
- This is loving one another

Reflecting God Today

- The Poor
 - People on Income Assistance make less than \$1300/mth
 - Minimum wage workers - \$2680/month
- The Oppressed – the people with no voice
 - Farm Labour – some working 6 wks with no day off
 - Battered wife
- Those in Bondage
 - Sex trade workers / Human trafficking
 - Refugees
- Being a Foster Parent

How Do We Love Today?

1. It starts with a heart transformed by God.
 - It is not possible to love your enemies and people deemed undeserving without his power
2. The total surrender of the stuff is needed in order to give as Jesus would give
3. The surrender of my opinion of people and plans so that I could follow the mind of Christ
4. Ask God To show you someone to show His love to this week. *Just do it!*