

**“Love One Another”**  
April 3, 2016

**CORE: Relationships matter to God.**

**Romans 12:5- “We belong to one another.”**

*(One of the 37 times the phrase “one another” appears in NT)*

**Matthew 22:37-40 NIV**

**1. Loving one another is a MAJOR ISSUE for Jesus.**

**Matthew 23:23-24 NIV**

- Jesus corrected the religious leaders for “majoring on the minors”
- The “gnats” they “strained at” were tasks that could be measured, compared, and competed with others (*i.e., tithing*)
  - Could be done w/o love (1 Corinthians 13) “*nothing w/o love*”
  - They were MINOR issues—compared to the MAJOR importance of loving one another

**2. Loving one another is OUR DISTINGUISHING MARK.**

**John 13:34-35**

- “***ALL will know***” we ***follow Him***—when we ***love like Him!***
- “***This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.***” (1 John 3:16)
  - We look most like Jesus—when we lay down our lives for one another!

**NOTE: As His Kingdom increasingly comes to the earth—there will be an amazing increase in Kingdom relationships!!! (SEE Lou Engle’s prophecy—March 9, 2016- *Elijah List*—See APPENDIX)**

**3. Loving one another is not a NOVELTY—it’s a NEW COMMAND (Jn. 13:34)**

**a. Being DEVOTED**

***“Devoted themselves...to the fellowship” (Acts 2:42)***

***Lit.- “to cauterize”- to apply heat in order to stop bleeding & prevent infection***

- Stay engaged—closely adhered to
- For the long haul—even when it gets messy!
- “***My little children, love one another.***” (John said this 5x in 1 Jn. 3 & 4)—allegedly John said this so often, 1<sup>st</sup> generation believers asked John to teach something else

b. Being SECURE

Jesus, in His most intense hour, “loved His own...He now showed them the full extent of His love” (John 13:1)—washing the feet of His friends—who were about to abandon Him.

How could He do this?

*“Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power—and that He had come from God and was returning to God” (John 13:3).*

- **SO SECURE** He could **FOCUS ON THE NEEDS OF OTHERS**
- **FEAR and LOVE** are **POLAR OPPOSITES**
  - Hurtful things happen when we react out of insecurities
  - Security from God alone sets us free to love

c. Being GRATEFUL

*“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks. This is God’s will for you!” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

- Joy, prayer & gratitude—not anger, gossip, & slander—are “God’s will for you!”
- Don’t lose your joy—when things go wrong
  - “Rejoice”- to thrive as the result of enjoying the company of another (*Rejoicing is a shared activity*)
- “Thankful”- to come under the influence of another; entrust in prayer
  - Ingratitude manifests as complaining, critical & negative speech
  - Ingratitude causes us to become “futile in our speculations” (Romans 1:21)—warping our perceptions of one another
  - An unthankful heart is the enemy of God’s will!
  - **A THANKFUL HEART-**
    - Sees the best part of every situation
    - Sees problems and weaknesses as opportunities
    - Sees struggles as refining tools
    - Brings our loved ones closer to us—rather than driving them away!
    - Looks past imperfections—communicating appreciation to others—seeing them as gifts from God to us

(NOTE: INGRATITUDE is “relationship repellant”!

THANKSGIVING is the doorway to “unity in the Spirit”—  
expressing the heart of our God who is “FOR US” (Romans 8:31)!

**APPENDIX: "Could We Be in a Day of Great Salvation and Spiritual Awakening?" Lou Engle, Pasadena, CA**

**In this Jubilee year**, if we will **proclaim liberty** to our brothers and sisters that we have held in bondage through **unforgiveness**, if we will **reconcile** with those whom we have **wounded**, if we will begin to **unite together** around Christ not fighting and **dismembering** the Body of Christ, we will see a great lifting of the spiritual siege over our cities and nation.

**A spirit of revival and freedom will break forth.**

Years ago, the late **John Wimber** was seeing extraordinary miracles at Fuller Seminary. One night he subtly spoke concerns about the faith movement, and for a whole week they saw no miracles. He inquired of the Lord and the Lord spoke, "**You touched My anointed.**" He was so tenderized and broken over this that he asked forgiveness of the Lord and the healings broke out again. What a story. **We cannot afford to point the finger** at any other members or movements in the Body of Christ. We can be prophets to one another, we can disagree with one another, but **we must love one another.**