

# Love and Serve One Another

John 13:1-5,12-17

*It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. [2] The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. [3] Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; [4] so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. [5] After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

*[12] When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. [13] "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. [14] Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. [15] I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. [16] Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.*

*[17] Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.*

## Upper Room Setting

Luke 22 - Peter and John made preparations for the Passover... (*Private meal*)

- The water, the basin, and the towel were already in the room!  
- just *no servant!*
- everybody could see it (*in corner, by the door?*)
- everybody knew it needed to be done

- Nobody moved...

Heres the deal:

***Any one of them would have been glad to do it  
for Jesus...***

none of them were willing to do it for each other...

Luke 22 tells us they had been ***arguing*** --- *again...*

(who is greatest)

When the evening meal was being served

(waited last minute?)

*Jesus sets the example - serve one another in love*

## ***Love One Another.***

(Can almost hear the tone of His Voice) (intensity)

- you love me, that's not enough" - "love one another" ...

- Strike the shepherd and the sheep will scatter...

Matthew 26:31 *Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: "'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'*

- Devil roams/prowls around like a roaring lion

- looking for the weaker...
- Looking for the scattered.
- Hunting the isolated, the individual, the separated one.

John 13:34-35

*"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. [35] By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

John 15:12-14

*My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. [13] Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. [14] You are my friends if you do what I command.*

***Why Is This Such a Big Deal to Him?***

## 1.) God is a Father --- He wants a Family

### Matthew 12:46-50

*[47] Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.” [48] He replied to him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” [49] Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. [50] For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”*

### 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

*Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves **have been taught by God to love each other.** [10] And in fact, you do love all of God’s family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more...*

## **- Report card**

### Psalms 133

*[1] How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!  
[2] It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.  
[3] It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.*

**Corinthian Church** -- every gift operable, divisions rampant

1 Corinthians 3:1-3

*Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly---mere infants in Christ. [2] I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. [3] You are **still worldly**. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, **are you not worldly?** Are you not acting like **mere humans?***

1 Corinthians 6:7

*The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been **completely defeated already...***

**Concerning slander (insinuations) :**

Francis Schaefer (in *True Spirituality*) says --

*When you covet your brother's possessions, you move to steal from him -- either consciously or unconsciously... And it's not just his wife or material goods you covet --- what about his intellect, or the praise others lavish on him, or the affection others give him???*

**- We don't outright attack, but we subtly try to steal that affection...**

James 4:11-12

*Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. ...But you---who are you to judge your neighbor?*

- One of the things God HATES in Proverbs 6 ---

*a person who stirs up conflict in the community.*

- Satan is called "the accuser of the brethren".

Do we really want to help HIM do his job?

## 2.) We Need Each Other

Ecclesiastes 4:10-12

*"... pity the man who falls and has no one to help them up. ....[12]*

*Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*

To KNOW God:

- 3 Friends (Lewis)

- Island --- (*stranded alone*)

- *Bible never really speaks of A saint...*

*but it speaks instead of **THE saints***

- Ephesians "that you may be able to comprehend **with all the saints...**"
- How wonderful it is that we have **4 gospel** narratives in the bible...

- how much would we miss if there were only one perspective.

- *The communion of the saints is necessary for any comprehensive understanding of the Savior.*

**Because We Are in a BATTLE:**

- CS Lewis *Phileo* -- "*the Four Loves*"

- Eye to eye // side by side
- mettle tested
- March/burden/Rivendale/Band of Brothers

*Shakespeare from "Henry V"*

*O, do not wish one more!  
Rather proclaim it, through the troops,  
That he which hath no courage for **this** fight,  
Let him depart; his passport shall be made,  
And money for travel put into his purse;  
We would **not** die in that man's company  
That **fears** his fellowship to die with us.*

*This day, the 25th of October is call'd  
the feast of Crispian.*

*He that outlives **this** day, and comes safely home,  
Will stand with -- head -- held -- high  
when this day is nam'd,  
And rouse him at the name of Crispian.*

*He that shall **live** this day, and see old age,  
Will yearly say 'To-morrow is Saint Crispian.'  
Then will he lift his sleeve and show **his** scars,  
And say 'These wounds I had on Crispian's day.'*

...

*This story shall the good man teach his son;  
And the name Crispian shall ne'er go by,  
From this day to the ending of the world,  
But we in it shall be remembered-  
**We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;**  
For he to-day that sheds **his** blood with me  
Shall be **my** brother; however lowly his station in society,  
**This** day shall **make** him a gentleman;  
And gentlemen in England now-in-bed  
Shall think themselves accursed they were not here,  
And hold their tongues whiles any **one** speaks  
That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day.*

### 3.) True Community is Magnetic

(the thing that either **discredits** or **confirms** witness)

- **Barnes** Sunday family meal

*By this all will know that you are My disciples,  
if you have **love for one another**.*

- **City on a Hill**

- Trying to be conspicuously communal.

- **Tertullian** --

- "See how they love one another..."

- "See how they are ready to die for one another"

*(Some reports say as many as 6 converts per sacrificial  
death)*

#### 1 John 3:16-18

*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. [17] If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? [18] Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.*

#### ***Love is a choice, not a feeling! (AGAPE)***

- Most people think the opposite of love is **hate**, but the opposite of love is **selfishness**.

Give things away -- like the book of Acts, share possessions:

- Share clothes / toothbrush
- Sold furniture for conference costs (*Zach & Caitlin*)
- Leather jacket (*Christmas gift*)
- Pay tuition
- Camera equipment
- Multiple Vehicles

Tertullian quote in case:

*But it is mainly the deeds of a love so noble that lead many to put a brand upon us. See, they say, how they love one another, for **themselves** are animated by mutual **hatred**; how they are ready even to **die** for one another, for they themselves will sooner **put** to death. And they are wroth with us, **too**, because we **call** each other brethren; for no other reason, as I think, than because among themselves names of consanguinity are assumed in mere **pretence** of affection.*

*But we are **your** brethren as well, by the law of our common mother nature, though you are **hardly** men, because brothers so unkind. At the same time, how much **more** fittingly they are called and counted **brothers** who have been led to the knowledge of God as their common Father, who have drunk in one spirit of holiness, who from the same womb of a common ignorance have agonized into the same light of truth!*

*But on **this** very account, perhaps, we are regarded as having less claim to be held true brothers, that no tragedy makes a*

*noise about **our** brotherhood, or that the family possessions, which generally **destroy** brotherhood among you, **create** fraternal bonds among us. One in mind and soul, we do not hesitate to share our earthly goods with one another. All things are common among us but our wives.*