

MAIN POINT

Christ calls us to cultivate community by loving one another the way He loves us.

INTRODUCTION

How do you think our culture would define “love”?

What are some of the main ways we show our love for one another in community? How has that been most meaningful to you?

Love is the defining mark of biblical community, and everything else flows from it. Our God is love, and He commands us to show His unconditional love to the watching world by modeling Jesus’ love for us. Our society is often confused when it comes to love, so it’s up to us to show true love by the way we interact with one another. We can do this by supporting one another, sacrificing for one another, sharing with one another, and submitting to one another.

DISCUSSION

> **READ JOHN 13:33-35.**

Does it surprise you that love is something Jesus had to command? Why or why not?

Who are our “one anothers”? How do our love for God and our love for one another go hand in hand? How does love for God and others inform our decision making?

Read Leviticus 19:18 and Matthew 22:34-40. What was new about the commandment to “love one another,” which He gave in John 13?

What did Jesus mean when He said for the disciples to love one another in the same way He loved them?

Look at John 13:1-17. What characterized the love Jesus had for His disciples in this scene? Similarly, what characterized the love Jesus showed us in going to the cross?

How might thinking deeply on what Christ has done for us cause us to truly love others?

What are the ramifications of Jesus’ statement in verse 35? What’s riding on our ability to demonstrate love?

What message do believers give to the world when they show love for one another? What message do they give when they fail to show love for one another?

How does our love for one another glorify God?

Why is it essential that we live in community with other Christians if we hope to cultivate Christlike love for others?

What kind of testimony might we leave by taking these commands to heart? How does this display wisdom?

APPLICATION

What needs to change about the way you love others so that you might be a better witness for Christ?