

## Communication: Love One Another

### Scripture:

#### John 15:1-17

In this section we see how we are made clean by the word of Jesus and then connected to him and the Father. Jesus provides us the ability to bear fruit. To bear fruit is to love others the way Jesus loves us. Jesus says to love is to self-sacrificially give of yourself for the good of the other.

#### Romans 13:8-10

Here Paul sums up that the second table of the ten commandments is about loving others. We are to act on behalf of the good for the other. Love has no end.

#### 1 John 4:7-12

John points out that loving others self sacrificially shows us that we know the Father and are connected to him. In other words, when see us loving others the way Jesus loves us it assures us of our being connected to him.

### Worldview:

- What Jesus says makes us clean and acceptable to God, not our ability to love others.
- Being connected to Jesus and the Father gives us the ability to actually love others.
- Love is being self-sacrificial for the good of the other.
- The commandments are not about making us righteous, rather they are about doing what is best for those around us.
- Giving of ourselves and loving self-sacrificially can assure us of our faith and hope in Jesus.

### Practice:

- Pause your life to address the concerns of others.
- Allow others to show you self-sacrificial love
- Look near first.

Nearly every Christian and many non-Christians know that Jesus told us to love another. But what does that actually mean? In this Christ in Common recap in our communication series we tackle that very question.

We begin with a Foundation in Scripture as usual. Our first section is John 15:1-17. In this section we saw that we first are made clean by the word of Jesus. Having been made clean by his word we are now connected to him and the Father. He uses the illustration of a vine dresser for the Father, a vine for himself, and branches for us. Since we are connected to Jesus (the vine) he provides us (the branches) the ability to bear fruit. The fruit he enables us to grow is to

love others the way Jesus loves us. Jesus makes it clear that he loves us by giving his life for us so we can live. So here, to love is to give of yourself for the good of the other.

Next is Romans 13:8-10 where first, Paul says we are to owe each other love. Loving another doesn't end, we never stop owing each other love. Paul also lays out that the second table of the ten commandments, the ones not about our relationship with God, are about loving others. We are to act on behalf of the good for the other, for their sake, not for the sake of our own righteousness.

We can't cover Scripture about love without looking at the famous "God is Love" quote which is in 1 John 4:7-12. Here we get the clearest direction that love is being self sacrificial. God is not a feeling, he is not an emotion, he isn't sexual desire, he is self sacrificial for our good. That is how God is love and that is how he shows us love. That is the kind of love that Jesus enables us to do by being connected to him. When we love others self sacrificially it shows us that we know the Father and are connected to him through Jesus.

That foundation leads us to see the world in several different ways. First, we see that what Jesus says makes us clean and acceptable to God, not our ability to love others. Second, being connected to Jesus and the Father gives us the ability to actually love others the way Jesus defines love. Third, love is being self-sacrificial for the good of the other. Fourth, the commandments are not about making us righteous, rather they are about doing what is best for those around us. And last, giving of ourselves and loving self-sacrificially assures us of our faith and hope in Jesus.

Those worldviews lead us to many practical ways to love one another. Here are a few: First, look near first. Loving others should happen in our everyday relationships. Loving self sacrificially should not be designated to mission trips and special service days alone. Second, to love sacrificially, we normally need to pause our lives in order to address the concerns of others. That pause is the start of putting the good of the other before yourself. Third, we need to allow others to show us self-sacrificial love. That means being vulnerable and taking the help that others offer.

Loving one another is an easy phrase to say without thinking. However, actually doing it the way Jesus describes is something that usually has to be done intentionally and it isn't easy. We need to rely on our connection to Jesus and listen to the everyday nudging of the Holy Spirit.