



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

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**Sunday –November 26, 2023**

## **To Know Christ...**

**“<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”**

**-Jesus; John 13:34-35**

When God laid His Son as the chief corner stone of the foundation for His Own Household (Ephesians 2:19-22), holy love would now be measured according to Jesus Christ Himself. Jesus had spoken to a lawyer about the great and foremost commandment of the old covenant. Jesus concretely stated that to love the Lord your God with all of your heart, all of your soul, and all of your mind was the great and foremost commandment. (Matthew 22:34-40) Then Jesus gave them a deeper insight, the second is to love your neighbor as yourself. Everything about the old covenant hangs on these two magnificent commands that Jesus overwhelmingly fulfilled throughout His Life.

Before the new covenant was paid for in full and enacted through Jesus' resurrection in the days to come, Jesus shared with His eleven apostles the new benchmark for love toward one another. (John 13:34-35; He also showed the perfect example of loving His Father through devotion, even unto death.) The standard was no longer about loving like you want to be loved, a command based upon self. Jesus told the eleven, **LOVE ONE ANOTHER, EVEN AS I HAVE LOVED YOU**. How would they do this? It would have to begin by meditating on the love that Jesus had shown them over their shared time together with Him! Have you ever asked yourself, **HOW HAS JESUS LOVED ME?** Jesus stated this before His own death for their sins, so that was not part of the equation yet!

**When recalling Jesus' love toward them during those years, what do you imagine they considered? In what ways had Jesus loved them? Loves you? (Take a few moments to answer these before continuing.)**

Was Jesus patient with their ignorance? Was Jesus forgiving toward their fleshly thinking? Did Jesus show His love for them by correcting them to their face? Did Jesus control His emotions when the disciples made Him indignant? Was Jesus humble, kind, and gentle to the lowly? Did they get to witness Jesus love others who were rejected, such as Samaritans or lepers? Did you think of other ways beyond just these? Is Jesus' love the chief corner stone directing our lives into holy love? Will we love as Christ loved us? If we do, all men will know who our Master is. If we do not, can we truly call Jesus our Lord? How desperately do we need His patience, kindness, forgiveness, and love? Let's meditate on it again ... in what ways has Jesus loved you? His disciples do the same for one another!

- Carey Terry