Sermon Date: Jan. 31, 2021

The Heart of a Disciple: Loving One Another

During our 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting we are looking at the three great love commandments in the Bible: love God, love one another, and love our neighbors. As a church God has called us to be disciples who love God, one another, and our neighbors. All three of these commands are essential as disciples. Today's passage is found in some final important words that Jesus gave to His disciples on the night before His crucifixion. These words were vital in preparing Jesus' disciples for the day ahead of them. They are vital for us as well.

Read John 13:31-35	
1.	What command does Jesus give?
2.	How does the context of this passage highlight how important this command was to Jesus?
3.	There are commands in the Old Testament to love others and so why is this a NEW commandment?
4.	Read John 15:12-13 and 1 John 3:16. What do these add to our understanding of what it means to love one another?
5.	What are some ways that we should "lay down our lives for one another"?

Steve said:

My question for you at this point is, "Are you committed to loving other believers like Jesus has loved you?" Don't answer too quickly; there's too much at stake in just giving the right answer here. One of the prayers we're praying during this 21 Days is the prayer at the end of Psalm 139, "Search me, Oh God, and know my heart. . . see if there be any hurtful way in me." Perhaps you are holding a grudge or bitterness against someone (either for good reason or out of pettiness). Whatever the case, you need to be convinced that God in Christ has loved you in ways that make your bitterness or anger unnecessary. Once you allow the love of Christ to melt away your bitterness or anger, you'll be ready to love others more fully. The goal isn't to learn techniques for loving this person or that person even though we secretly despise them. The goal is to become the type of people who are so captivated by the love of Christ that His love flows through us.

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6.	Are you committed to loving other believers like Jesus has loved you? Explain.	
7.	Why is love for one another in the body of Christ a demonstration that one follows Jesus (John 13:35)?	
8.	What are some practice implications of this command for you right now?	
9.	What are some practical implications of this command for our Life Group right now?	

Practicing the Rhythms of Rooted this Week



Daily Devotion: Continue to use the devotionals from the 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting, which will focus this week on loving one another.



Prayer: Take some time this week for listening prayer. Ask God to show you if you are loving others like Christ as loved you. As well, choose one or two fellow believers and determine that one way you will express love for them this week is to pray regularly for them.