

“I Love My Church”
Learning to Care for One Another!
Part 2
“The Proof!”
“You love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” John 13:35

Love God. Love **One Another**

A. Loving one another begins in Christ...

“We love each other because he loved us first.” 1 John 4:19
“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” John 13:34-35

1. Jesus loved me first.
2. Jesus gave me the example of love.
3. Jesus gave me the commandment of love.
4. Jesus declared that the proof of who I am is revealed in how I love!

B. Christ’s love is...

“This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” John 15:12-13

1. Christ’s love is unconditional.
2. Christ’s love is sacrificial.
3. Christ’s love is forgiving.
4. Christ’s love is holy and pure.

C. Christ’s love comes...

“Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” 1 John 4:7-8

1. When I am filled by the Holy Spirit.

“And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.” Romans 5:5

2. When I am connected to the Vine.

“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing...I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love...This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.” John 15:5,9-10,12

3. When I make every effort.

“In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God’s promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of...brotherly affection with love for everyone.” 1 Peter 1:5a,7b

4. When I continue to love.

“Dear friends, let us continue to love one another...” 1 John 4:7a

D. Christ’s love in me looks like this...

“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

1. When I love others like Jesus loved me.

“Love each other in the same way I have loved you.” John 15:12b

2. When I love others as I love myself.

“A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” Matthew 22:39

3. When I love others with a genuine affection.

“Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.” Romans 12:10

4. When I love unconditionally, sacrificially, with forgiveness, and with a holy and pure love.

“Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God’s law.” Romans 13:8

“You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working; and just so you learn to love God and man by loving. Begin as a mere apprentice and the very power of love will lead you on to become a master of the art.”

-St. Francis De Sales

“Love One Another”

...add to your...brotherly kindness love. —2 Peter 1:5, 7

“Love is an indefinite thing to most of us; we don’t know what we mean when we talk about love. Love is the loftiest preference of one person for another, and spiritually Jesus demands that this sovereign preference be for Himself (see Luke 14:26). Initially, when *“the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit”* (Romans 5:5), it is easy to put Jesus first. But then we must practice the things mentioned in 2 Peter 1 to see them worked out in our lives.

The first thing God does is forcibly remove any insincerity, pride, and vanity from my life. And the Holy Spirit reveals to me that God loved me not because I was lovable, but because it was His nature to do so. Now He commands me to show the same love to others by saying, “...love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12). He is saying, “I will bring a number of people around you whom you cannot respect, but you must exhibit My love to them, just as I have exhibited it to you.” This kind of love is not a patronizing love for the unlovable— it is His love, and it will not be evidenced in us overnight. Some of us may have tried to force it, but we were soon tired and frustrated.

“The Lord...is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish...” (2 Peter 3:9). I should look within and remember how wonderfully He has dealt with me. The knowledge that God has loved me beyond all limits will compel me to go into the world to love others in the same way. I may get irritated because I have to live with an unusually difficult person. But just think how disagreeable I have been with God! Am I prepared to be identified so closely with the Lord Jesus that His life and His sweetness will be continually poured out through me? Neither natural love nor God’s divine love will remain and grow in me unless it is nurtured. Love is spontaneous, but it has to be maintained through discipline.” —Oswald Chambers