

**SERMON FOR SUNDAY**  
**HIDDEN HILLS SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**WILLOW, ALASKA**  
**DATE: April 7, 2019**  
**SCRIPTURE READ: John 13:34-35**  
**TEXT: John 13:34-35**  
**SUBJECT: Love one for another as I have loved you**

**John 13:34-35** *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*

I preached a sermon similar to this one on Sunday, January 5, 2014. Of course, no two sermons are the same, even if one uses his old notes and references. We need to be reminded. Paul said to Timothy: "If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. (1Ti. 4:6)

Our Lord Jesus Christ and His apostles have given to His people many exhortations about deeds which they (and us) are to perform toward "one another." These include:

- *"Have peace with one another"* (Mark 9:50)
- *"Be kindly affectionated to one another"* (Romans 12:10, 13)
- *"Forgive one another"* (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12f)
- *"Be hospitable to one another"* (1 Peter 4:9)
- *"Have compassion for one another"* (1 Peter 3:8f)
- *"Be like-minded toward one another"* (Romans 12:16; 15:5f)

- *"Submit to one another"* (Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5)
- *"Receive one another"* (Romans 15:7)
- *"Admonish/Exhort one another"* (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 3:12-15; 10:24f)
- *"Serve one another"* (Galatians 5:13f)
- *"Bear one another's burdens"* (Galatians 6:1f)
- *"Bear with one another"* (Ephesians 4:1-3)
- *"Minister gifts to one another"* (1 Peter 4:10)
- *"Comfort one another"* – regarding those who sleep in Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
- *"Pray for one another"* (James 5:16)
- *"Greet one another with a holy kiss"* (Romans 16:16 / 1 Corinthians 16:20 / 2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Peter 5:14)
- *"Love one another"* (see below)

"Love one another" is last in this list which I have copied down, but first in importance. Let's refresh our memories on the Bible meaning of love. This is far above and beyond anything that can be thought of as erotic love or even brotherly love. This is not love that flows from sensual desire or from our emotions. It is the love that flows from our innermost being and out of our will toward the objects of our love – our brothers and sisters in Christ. This is the love which God gives us – the love with which he loved us is the love we ought to have for our brothers and sisters in the LORD.

The scriptures say far more regarding this exhortation than any of the others, and perhaps all of them combined. People who faithfully obey this exhortation to love one another as Jesus has loved us prove

themselves to be Christ's disciples and obey all the other exhortations also. Here this, beloved brothers and sisters – it is not so much our doctrine; our manner of conducting services; our keeping of the ordinances (for we must do all of that according to the Word of God), but it by our loving one another as Christ has loved us that all men know that we are His disciples. Let us therefore consider:

### **I. Why are Christians to "love one another"?**

1. We are to "love one another" because this is our Lord and Savior's new commandment to us (John 13:34; 15:12; 15:17).

i. Jesus teaches us: "**A new commandment** I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another" (John 13:34); "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12); "These things I command you, that you love one another" (John 15:17).

1) What does Jesus mean by His "*new commandment*"? It is a commandment going beyond what was required in the *first* and the *second* great commandments (Matthew 22:35-40 / Mark 12:28-31). The "*first commandment*" required "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." The "*second commandment*" required "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." These two commandments were given to Israel under the first covenant. But this "*new commandment*" is given to Jesus' disciples only, and requires all of us to: "... love one another as I have loved you." *A new commandment*. This command Jesus gave them as he was about to leave them, to be a *badge* of discipleship, by which they might be known as his friends and followers, and by which they might be *distinguished* from all others. It is called *new*, not because there was no command before which required men to love

their fellow-men, for one great precept of the law was that they should love their neighbour as themselves;

**Le 19:18 (KJV)** *Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.*

This commandment was *new* because it had never before been made that by which any class or body of men had been *known and distinguished*.

- The *Jew* was known by his external rites, by his peculiarity of dress, &c.;
- the philosopher by some other mark of distinction;
- the military man by another, &c.

In none of these cases was love *for each other* the distinguishing and peculiar mark by which they were known. But in the case of Christians, we are not to be known by distinctions of wealth, or learning, or fame because we are not to seek earthly honors; You and I are not to adopt any peculiar style of dress or *badge*, but we are to be distinguished by tender and constant attachment to each other. This love of the brethren goes beyond all distinction of country, of color, rank, office, or sect. Here we are to feel that we are all on a level that has common desires; we were all redeemed by the same sacred blood, and are all going to the same heavenly abode. We are to uphold one another in trials – and to be careful of each other's feelings and reputation; moreover, we are to deny themselves to promote one another's welfare. This is the peculiar law of Christ – the perfect law of liberty.

2) How has Jesus loved His disciples?

i) As His Father loved Him (John 15:9): "*As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you.*"

ii) With the unsurpassed love (John 15:13): "*Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends*" (cf. Ephesians 5:2). Page | 5

**Eph 5:2 (KJV)** *And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*

iii) With never-ceasing love (John 13:1): "having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end."

iv. John reminds us: "For this is the message that you heard from the beginning [of the preaching of the Gospel to you, and of your conversion], that we should love one another" (1 John 3:11); "And this is God's commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment" (1 John 3:23); "And now I plead with you, lady [the dear elect lady to whom he wrote], not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another" (2 John 1:5).

2. We are to "love one another" because God teaches us to do so . **1 Thessalonians 4:9** *But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.*

– The Greek word here translated "taught by God" (*theodidaktos* [*theos*="God" + *didaskō*="teach"]) appears nowhere else in the New Testament (but see *didaktoi theou* = "taught by God" in John 6:45). It

refers to a personal and direct teaching from God to His people from their new birth. When God gives His Holy Spirit to His people (v.8) He also fulfills His promise that "I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts" (Jeremiah 31:33). Moreover, He gives to us an anointing by which we know all things (1 John 2:20, 27) – including "love one another". To be "taught by God to love one another" is distinct from and beyond what is taught by the light of nature, by the Law of Moses, and by our gospel ministers. All of us who are born of God will love one another because God personally and directly has taught us to do so. Only those taught of God keep on loving one another; keep on loving their neighbors and even their enemies as Jesus taught (Mat. 5:44). Think on that.

3. *We are to "love one another" because we are born of God* – born again: "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God" (1 John 4:7); "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer and we know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him" (1 John 3:14f); "Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him" (1 John 5:1). If you do not love God's children, you are not one of them, and God is not your Father, and you do not truly love Him nor believe that Jesus is the Christ.

4. *We are to "love one another" because God loved us* (1 John 4:9-11): "In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

- i. God loved His people when they were disagreeable to Him – when they were enemies of Him; we should love our brothers and sisters when they are disagreeable to us.
- ii. God manifested His love to His people; we should manifest our love to them, and not merely love them in word only, but in deed also.
- iii. God's love to His people resulted in a propitiation for their sins; we should "love one another" because "Love will cover a multitude of sins" – how so, by letting them lie in oblivion (1 Peter 4:8).

## **II. How are Christians to "love one another"?**

1. *As Christ loved us* (John 15:12): "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you," How is that? -
2. *Increasingly and aboundingly* (1 Thessalonians 3:12): "And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all ...." As we are to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18), so are we to grow in our love to one another.
3. *Fervently (white hot love) with a pure heart* (1 Peter 1:22; 4:8a): "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart"; "And above all things have fervent love for one another ...."

## **III. What results when Christians "love one another"?**

1. We fulfill God's law (Romans 13:8): "Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law."

2. We give evidence that God abides in us and that we possess His love (1 John 4:12): "... If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us."

3. We prove our discipleship to Jesus Christ (John 13:35): "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." We know Antichrist's disciples by their opposition to Christ and His people. We know Jesus Christ's disciples by their love to Him which can be seen by their love to one another only.

In closing, let us again define what love is and what it is not from the Scriptures:

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8** Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, **5** Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; **6** Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; **7** Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. **8** Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.

According to this passage, charity (love) –

1. Suffers long (puts up with others who cause them to hurt).
2. Is kind - Disposed to do good to others, and to make them happy by granting their requests, supplying their wants or assisting them in distress; having tenderness or goodness of nature; benevolent;
3. Envieth not - To feel uneasiness, mortification or discontent, at the sight of superior excellence, reputation or happiness enjoyed by another; to repine at another's prosperity; to fret or grieve one's self at the real or supposed superiority of another, and to hate him on that account.



4. Vaunteth not itself - To boast; to make a vain display of one's own worth, attainments or decorations; to talk with vain flamboyance or showiness; to brag.
5. Is not puffed up - inflated with vanity or pride; praising oneself.
6. Doth not behave itself unseemly - Live in a manner that is not fit or becoming; uncomely; unbecoming; indecent.
7. Seeketh not her own - Seeks not her own way; own desires; own opinions at the expense of others.
8. Is not easily provoked - Keeps on passively taking abuse or criticism; does not allow oneself to become angry or incensed.
9. Thinketh no evil - puts the best possible construction on the motives and the conduct of others. It means that love, or that a person under the influence of love, is not malicious, censorious, disposed to find fault, or to impute improper motives to others.
10. Rejoiceth not in iniquity - Neither in his own, nor in others; but on the contrary is grieved for it; he mourns over his own iniquities, the corruption of his heart, the infirmities of his life, his secret sins, which none know but God and his own soul; he is greatly troubled at the profaneness and immorality of the men of the world, and the sins of professors cut him to the heart: nor does he rejoice in injustice, as the word used here may be rendered, in any unjust action or injury, that may be done to any, yea, even to an enemy;
11. But rejoiceth in the truth - The word *truth* here stands opposed to iniquity, and means virtue, piety, goodness. It does not rejoice in the vices, but in the *virtues* of others. It is pleased, it rejoices when they do well. It is pleased when those who differ from us conduct [themselves] in any manner in such a way as to please God, and to advance their own reputation and happiness.
12. Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth

Let us, beloved, love one another with a fervent love – the same kind of love with which the savior loves us – willing to lay down our lives for the brethren. Amen. By this shall all men know that we are His disciples!