
Sermon Notes

July 10, 2016

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Love One Another

John 13:34-35, 1 John 4:7-16

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Tuning Out

- ❖ We often "tune out" things with which we become overly familiar
- ❖ We must guard against "tuning out" portions of Scripture that we have heard repeatedly
- ❖ Jesus' new commandment
 - it is easy to overlook how radical and shocking these words were when Jesus first spoke them
 - Jesus has just washed His disciple's feet, forecast Judas' betrayal and is about to predict Peter's denial
 - now, the only example of true love the world has ever known is about to be taken from it
 - how will the world see and know and experience the depths of this divine love when Jesus is not present?
 - Jesus' followers must mirror and model that love for others to see

What's New About the New Commandment?

- ❖ Why does Jesus call this a new commandment?
 - during His ministry Jesus has frequently highlighted the two great "love commandments" (Deu 6:5, Lev 19:18)
 - Jesus teaches that all of the law and the prophets are summed up in these 2 "love commands" (Mark 12:28-33, Rom 13:8-10, Gal 5:14)

- ❖ What's new about the new commandment is Jesus' promise to give us a new relationship with Himself and a new power through the Holy Spirit so we can keep it!
- ❖ Three NEW things about the NEW commandment
 - Jesus' command to love one another has a new focus and direction
 - Jesus' command to love one another is to be exercised and pushed to a new extent
 - the standard by which we measure love is raised up to the way God expresses His love for us in Jesus
 - the measure of our love (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)
 - Jesus' command to love one another is made possible by a new power

John's Commentary on Loving One Another

- ❖ 1 John provides a full-fledged exposition of Jesus' new commandment
 - 4 passages in 1 John explain the implications this commandment has for all of us (1 John 2:7–11; 3:11–18; 4:7–16; and 5:1–5)
 - 4:7-16 contains the word *love one another* 3 times, and each gives a different reason why we are to devote ourselves to obeying this commandment
- ❖ We love one another because love is God's nature (vv. 7-8)
- ❖ We love one another because love lies behind God's greatest gift to us (v. 9, 11)

- ❖ We love one another because love is God's present and continuing activity in the world today (v. 12)
 - *perfected* = complete, brought to a finish
 - the loop of God's love is brought full circle
- ❖ We are to love one another with the same kind of love with which Jesus loves us
 - a love filled with a willingness to sacrifice our own interests, pleasure, time, talent, and treasure for the needs of others
 - a holy, selfless, sacrificial, gracious, unconditional, understanding, and forgiving love
- ❖ Loving as Jesus loves is superhuman and supernatural

Personal Application

1. Are there any ways in which you may have "tuned out" Jesus' new commandment to love one another in John 13:34-35? How will you work to "tune" yourself back into it?
2. What do you see showing up in your life that convinces you that you have devoted yourself to Jesus' new commandment?
3. Take a measure of your love using the standard we are given in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. Where do you need to ask for and apply more of God's grace in order to more fully love others?
4. What do you do to attack your pride, and how do you sacrifice your preferences for the needs of others?
5. Pray that you will be more yielded and sensitive to the Holy Spirit's power to love like Jesus loves.