

**Cultivating Covenant Community**  
A Study of the One-Another Commands of Scripture

**Lesson 2: Love One Another**

Key Scriptures: John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

**1. The priority of Christian love**

- a. In John 13:34-35, Jesus affirms and raises the Old Testament standard.
  - i. Love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:18) → Love one another as I have loved you (Jesus)
- b. Our love for one another is supposed to be the defining mark of our community.
  - i. This is how the world will know that we are disciples of Jesus.
- c. Tertullian: “See how they love one another!”
- d. Francis Schaeffer called love “the final apologetic.”
  - i. Our love for one another is the greatest defense of the reality of our faith!
- e. Jesus says that love is the summary of God’s law.
  - i. Matthew 22:34-40
- f. The gospel is a message of love.
  - i. “For God so loved the world...” (John 3:16)
  - ii. God demonstrates His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).
  - iii. Love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5).
- g. Is love a priority in our covenant community here at CPC?

**2. The characteristics of Christian love**

- a. Christian love is a **pursuing** love.
  - i. 1 John 4:19
- b. Christian love is a **sacrificial** love.
  - i. Ephesians 5:25
- c. Christian love is a **persevering** love.
  - i. 1 Corinthians 13:7
- d. Christian love is a **tenderhearted** love.
  - i. Psalm 34:18
  - ii. Romans 12:15
- e. Christian love is a **sincere** love.
  - i. Romans 12:9
- f. Christian love is a **brotherly** love.
  - i. Romans 12:10
  - ii. 1 Timothy 5:1-2
- g. Christian love is a **sanctifying** love.
  - i. 1 Corinthians 13:6
  - ii. Ephesians 5:25-26
  - iii. Proverbs 27:5-6
- h. Christian love is a **universal** love.
  - i. Colossians 1:4

- ii. Ephesians 1:15
- i. Christian love is a **forgiving** love.
  - i. Ephesians 4:32
- j. Christian love is an **overlooking** love.
  - i. Proverbs 19:11
  - ii. Proverbs 10:12
  - iii. 1 Peter 4:8
- k. Christian love is a **humble** love.
  - i. John 13
  - ii. Philippians 2
- l. Christian love is a **practical** love.
  - i. 1 John 3:16-18
- 3. The **motivations** of Christian love
  - a. Love **glorifies God's character**.
    - i. "God is love" (1 John 4:8)
  - b. Love **fulfills God's law**.
    - i. Romans 13:8-10
    - ii. James 2:8-13
  - c. Love **discovers God's work in people**.
    - i. Because all people are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), we can see God's work in them. The fact that all people are made in the image of God has great implications for how we treat them (James 3:9).
    - ii. Because all Christians are redeemed by Christ, we can see God's work in them. In every Christian, God has begun a good work (Philippians 1:6). Failure to affirm the good in other Christians dishonors what God is doing.
    - iii. True love looks for the good in others. All the good things come from God.
    - iv. John Calvin quote:
 

"The Lord enjoins us to do good to all without exception, though the greater part, if estimated by their own merit, are most unworthy of it. But Scripture subjoins a most excellent reason, when it tells us that we are not to look to what men in themselves deserve, but to attend to the image of God, which exists in all, and to which we owe all honor and love. ... Say that he is unworthy of your least exertion on his account; but the image of God, by which he is recommended to you, is worthy of yourself and all your exertions. ... We are not to reflect on the wickedness of men, but look to the image of God in them, an image which, covering and obliterating their faults, should by its beauty and dignity allure us to love and embrace them." *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 3.7.6

### Closing Application-