

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



Handout: 05/05/24

Study Date: 05/12/24

Love One Another

Real love forgets self. Real love knows no danger. Real love doesn’t count the cost. The Bible says, “Many waters can’t quench love, neither can floods drown it” (Song of Solomon 8:7).

The gospel text today is about this kind of love. And how fitting it is that we have this text on Mothers’ Day. Jesus’ words could easily be about being a good mother or father, but actually they are aimed at the whole Christian family, at the whole Church. Jesus says,

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, just like I have loved you; that you also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35).

Why does Jesus *command* us to love? He gives this command because there is a part of every one of us that rebels against the idea of pure, unconditional love. Despite the example that we have in Jesus’ undeserved and unconditional love for us – there is a part of us that says such love is out of place in the world in which we live. There is a part of us that says –”sure, loving others is great – up to a point....”

We draw a line and say, “That’s how much we are prepared to love the next person”. We draw a line and say, “That’s how far we are prepared to do a kind deed for someone else”. We draw a line and say, “Those are the people we are prepared to love”.

We are happy to love in this selective kind of way. We are comfortable with the kind of love that doesn’t make us feel uncomfortable. We might be happy with this kind of love but it is not what Jesus was talking about here when he said, “Love one another, just like I have loved you; that you also love one another.”

What Jesus says is quite plain. We should love others in the same way that Jesus loves us. His love is sacrificial and self-giving. We see that on the cross. He loved us so much that he willingly gave his life for us. He had no thought for his own safety, but readily put his own life at risk. He was prepared to risk pain and suffering, even death because of his love for us.

He loved unconditionally. His love is genuine, honest, caring and compassionate. His love is not turned off and on by fleeting passions, or emotional highs. He didn’t draw a line and say that going beyond that line was too much to ask. His love knew no limits.

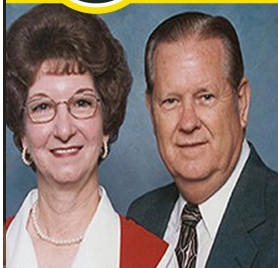
That’s how he commanded us to love – *willingly* and *sacrificially*. In fact, that’s why Jesus *commands* us to love, because he knew that we aren’t happy with a love that is anything but unconditional and sacrificial.

The Bible states that our ability to love comes from our relationship with Jesus Christ. “We love him, because he first loved us”, says the Apostle John (1 John 4:19). We are able to love because he loves us. Understanding this is critical to our ability to live out the Christian life of love. The more the love of Jesus fills our lives, the more we will be able to love others with the same kind of love that he shows to us.

Resource: Sermonwriter.com

MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Charles & Jurdlean Strong | Mexico



PRAISE

- For safety from recent violence by the drug cartels.
- For a successful Bible School in early August, there were over 70 in attendance and 24 were saved.

PRAY

- The ongoing violence and crime in Mexico with drug cartels, stealing vehicles, shooting, killing.
- For the outreach to families of children who attended Bible School.
- For the pastor’s wife, Diane, she seems to be doing great and recovering. She has a follow-up visit soon.

KEY3VERSE

John 13:35 (NKJV)

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: John 13:35

Introduction

1. In paragraph 3 on page 1 we are asked the question; “Why does Jesus command us to love”? What are your thoughts on the answers given?
2. In John 13:35 the statement is made; *“By this all will know that you are My disciples.”* What is most challenging for YOU to love like these disciples?

Tuesday: John 13:34a; I John 3:11; Leviticus 19:18; Eph. 5:1-2

Loving One Another Is New

3. Leviticus 19:18 ultimately states that we are to *“love our neighbor as ourselves.”* But what does the verse tell us about vengeance and grudges?
4. Ephesians 5:1-2 defines the love that we are called to give to others as we walk through this life. Who’s example are we to model to achieve this?

Wednesday: John 13:34b; John 13:4-5; Matthew 26:26-28

Loving One Another Is Sacrificial Service

5. What loving services do YOU perform to emulate Jesus in John 13:5?
6. In Matthew 26:28 Jesus illustrates the sacrificial love of bearing the cross at The Last Supper. How does His ultimate sacrifice impact your walk?

Thursday: Hebrews 10:24-25; I Thess. 4:9-10; I John 3:16-18

Develop Loving One Another

7. I Thessalonians 4:9-10 shows us the example of *“brotherly love”* executed beautifully. Who ultimately teaches us this love according to verse 9?
8. I John 3:16 gives us the clear message that Jesus is our example to follow when it comes to loving one another. But what does verse 18 add to this?
9. What is Hebrews 10:25a calling us to? How regularly are YOU answering?

Friday: John 15:12-13; Matt. 5:44; I Thess. 3:12; Luke 10:33-35

Demonstrate Loving One Another

10. Matthew 5:44 saddles us with the very difficult task of *“loving our Enemies.”* How well have YOU met this challenge in your walk?
11. Luke 10:33-35 tells us of the good Samaritan who *“had compassion”* Can you recall an incident when you received such compassion from another?