

## ***Sermon Series: The Power of Love***

2/16/25 “One Another,” John 13:34-35(31-35), MEV

**INTRODUCTION** Do churches act like Jesus wants? Did the early churches? *No* Why? *Sin nature* Should we try? *Will we die?* *Why do we try to live a healthy lifestyle?*

**MAIN IDEA: Love others in the church as Jesus commands.**

How? Here are four things we must do.

### **I. First, love all** (each & every one)

**Love: *agapao*** [verb form of *agape*] = love by choice & by an act of the will; unconquerable benevolence & undefeatable goodwill; does not need a chemistry, an affinity, or a feeling; exclusively belongs to Christian community (*SFLB*)

- A. showing kindness & unconquerable goodwill ...in demeanor, communication, service
- B. regardless of our relationship
- C. regardless of their growth

**1Cor. 13:4-8 love:** longsuffering [patient], kind, not envying or proud, overlooking wrongs, thinking no evil, rejoicing in truth & victories, bearing all things, hoping, enduring, unfailing. [Sam’s paraphrase]

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

#### **II. Second, love selflessly**

- A. sacrificing myself... *Jesus sacrificed for all*

**John 3:16... gave:** to deliver, to give what is due (*Mounce*); emphasizing idea of sacrifice (*Vincent’s Word Studies*)

- 1. laying down my rights
- 2. preferring others (Rom. 12:10, Php 2:3)

**Romans 12:10, MEV:** Be devoted to one another with brotherly love; prefer one another in honor,

- B. relating to others unselfishly...*not for my needs but theirs*

**Romans 5:8, MEV:** while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

**Philippians 2:3-4, MEV: 3** Let nothing be done out of strife or

conceit, but in humility let each esteem the other better than himself.  
**4** Let each of you look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others.

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

#### **III. Third, love continuously**

**Love:** verb form of *agape*, in the present imperative, indicating a command to do something in the future which involves continuous or repeated action (*Complete Word Study NT*)

- A. despite responses... *discouragement, hurt*
- B. persevering

**Galatians 6:9, MEV:** And let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not give up.

- C. being filled with the Holy Spirit
  - 1. His love filling us (Romans 5:5)
  - 2. His Spirit building us up (1Cor 14:4)

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

#### **IV. Finally, love specially**

- A. not like neighbors... *doing no harm*

**Romans 13:9-10, MEV: 9** For the commandments... are summed up in this saying, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” **10** Love works no evil to a neighbor.

- B. as fellow inheritors, each loved by Jesus
- C. as a sign to unbelievers...*because we treat one another differently than the world sees*

**Know:** recognition of truth by personal experience (*Hayford’s Bible Handbook*)

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

#### **CONCLUSION:**

#### **ALTAR:**