

## Love One Another

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • October 3, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2021  
Scripture Reader and Reading: Nash Crisp – John 13.31–33  
Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Aaron Glider

### **Prelude:**

#### **I. Can you remember everything that is written in the Bible?**

- A. What if I narrow that question down to the New Testament?
- B. I am going to guess that not one of us remembers everything.

#### **II. Since we cannot remember everything,**

- A. what should we remember?
- B. There is one command
  - 1. that the Lord wants us to remember
  - 2. more than everything else,
    - a) except for one other thing.
    - b) What he wants us to remember and to do
      - (1) is to love one another.
      - (2) The only other thing in the Scriptures
        - (a) that supersedes that
        - (b) Jesus said for us to love God.

#### **III. If you**

- A. love God and
- B. love one another,
  - 1. you will do everything
    - a) that you should do and
  - 2. you will not do anything
    - a) that you should not do.

#### **IV. Paul told our Corinthian brethren:**

**14 Let all that you do be done with love.**

**– 1 Corinthians 16.14**

- A. Do that and as you shall see
- B. everything else will fall into place.

#### **V. The Holy Spirit moved the New Testament writers**

- A. to use one phrase often
- B. to summarize how we should be with one another.
  - 1. The New Testament teaches love in many different ways, but
  - 2. there is one that occurs repeatedly.

#### **VI. That makes loving one another the supreme good.**

##### **Persuasion:**

##### **I. John 13.34–35 • A New Commandment**

- A. What was on the mind of Jesus
  - 1. when he knew one of his closest friends was about to betray him and
  - 2. as he contemplated his death the next day?
- B. John 13–18 will show you his mind.
  - 1. All those chapters record his words during his last night.
  - 2. After Judas left the group, Jesus declared:

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

**– John 13.34–35**

**12 “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”**

– **John 15.12**

**17 “These things I command you, that you love one another.”**

– **John 15.17**

C. Three times that night

1. he spoke of them and
2. us as his disciples,
  - a) that we love one another.
  - b) This was not his limpy-wristed suggestion.
    - (1) This was his commandment.
    - (2) He also said that night:

**15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”**

– **John 14.15**

D. If we love Jesus,

1. we will keep his commandments.
2. One of those commandments is
  - a) that we love one another.
  - b) Therefore, if we do not love one another,
    - (1) we do not love the Lord Jesus.
    - (2) If we do not love the Lord Jesus Christ,
      - (a) trouble awaits us at the Judgment.
      - (b) If we love the Lord Jesus Christ,
        - i) we show the world
        - ii) that we are his disciples.

## **II. Romans 13.8–10 • Love Fulfills the Law**

- A. What Paul said in this text,
1. makes the point that I made earlier,
  2. that if we love,
    - a) we will do everything
      - (1) that we should do and
    - b) we will not do anything
      - (1) that we should not do.

B. Listen to Paul explain:

**8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.**

**– Romans 13.8–10**

1. As I quoted Paul earlier to the Corinthians,
2. we should let all that we do be done in love.
  - a) That being the case,
    - (1) we will not sin against a brother, and
    - (2) we will help him with his needs.
      - (a) As John wrote in First John 3:

**16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?**

**– 1 John 3.16–17**

### III. First Thessalonians 4.9–10 • God Teaches Us to Love One Another

- A. The church did not make up this commandment.
- B. No man or group of men came up with it.
  - 1. From whence then did it come?
  - 2. Let no one be surprised by what Paul said:

**9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; 10 and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more...**

**– 1 Thessalonians 4.9–10**

- C. I know that man did not come up with this because
  - 1. man teaches that we love those who love us, but
  - 2. we hate those who hate us.
- D. Think about this:
  - 1. What would we expect from our Creator?
  - 2. We would expect him have us do whatever improves his creation.
    - a) Loving one another improves his creation.
    - b) That shows that love is of God.

### IV. First Peter 1.22 • Love Fervently

- A. If what I have shown thus far presents the truth,
- B. can love for one another be robotic or half-hearted?

**22 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...**

**– 1 Peter 1.22**

- 1. We obeyed the truth to purify our souls, but

2. Peter went further.
  - a) Our initial obedience not only purified our souls,
  - b) it put us into a family.
    - (1) In this family, we have love for one another.
    - (2) We love one another fervently.

**V. First John 3.10–12 • The Commandment Never Changes**

- A. The old commandment was to love our neighbor as ourselves.
- B. Jesus raised that, saying that we love one another as he has loved us.
  1. Has he modified it again?
  2. What John taught later in the first century
    - a) is what Jesus taught earlier in the century.
    - b) The commandment to love never changes:

**10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. 11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, 12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.**

**– 1 John 3.10–12**

- C. If we do not love one our brother,
  1. we are not of God.
  2. Loving our brother shows that we are children of God.
- D. What John taught,
  1. what Peter taught,
  2. what Paul taught,
  3. what Jesus taught,

- a) is what we should continue to teach and
- b) is what we should continue to practice.

## **VI. First John 3.22–23 • Answered Prayer Depends upon Loving One Another**

**22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. 23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.**

### **– 1 John 3.22–23**

A. What a joy to know

- 1. that whatever we ask of God,
- 2. we have it.

B. We have it because

- 1. we do his commandments and
- 2. we do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

C. John named two commandments:

- 1. That we believe on the name of God's Son, Jesus Christ, and
- 2. that we love one another.

a) Why should God answer our prayers,

b) if we do not love one another.

(1) We pray what is important to us.

(2) What is important to God is that we love one another.

## **VII. First John 4.7–8 • Love Is of God**

**7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.**

### **– 1 John 4.7–8**

A. Why did John say we should love one another?

1. Love is of God.
2. Therefore, everyone who loves shows
  - a) that he is born of God and
  - b) that he knows God.
    - (1) God is all about love.
    - (2) Therefore, if we love one another,
      - (a) we show that we know God.
      - (b) We show that we know what he is all about!

B. On the other hand,

1. if we do not love,
2. it shows that we do not know God.
  - a) Why is that?
  - b) Not only is love of God, but
    - (1) John announced that God is love.
    - (2) Love summarizes our God.

C. If a person does not know God,

1. what expectation does that person have at the Judgment?
2. Paul wrote
  - a) that at the Second Coming of Christ,
  - b) Jesus will perform this terrifying task:

**8 ...in flaming fire [he will take] vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**– 2 Thessalonians 1.8**

- (1) Please, whatever objections you have to loving one another,

(2) dispense with that objection because

(a) eternity is at stake!

(b) We have the choice of

i) eternal fire or

ii) eternal love in God's presence.

### **VIII. First John 4.11 • We Ought to Love Because God Loved Us**

**11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**

**– 1 John 4.11**

A. Yes, some people make it difficult to love them.

B. However, we cannot focus on that.

1. Instead, we should focus on God's love for us.

2. Did God find it difficult to love us?

a) If he had,

b) we could not blame him.

C. What sins have we committed against him,

1. both before and after our conversions?

2. Our unloveableness before God

a) surely superseded

b) someone's unloveableness before us.

D. Yet, he still loved us.

1. That should be the greatest motivator for us ever.

2. Let us love one another because God loved, and still loves, us.

### **IX. First John 4.12 • Love Is a Sign that God Abides in Us**

**12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.**

**- 1 John 4.12**

A. Since no one has seen God at any time,

1. how do I know that God abides with me or in me? and
2. Has the love of God been perfected in me yet?

B. John stated how we can answer those questions.

1. By one simple test:

- a) If we love one another,
- b) two things are true:
  - (1) God abides in us.
  - (2) His love has been perfected in us.

2. That makes the opposite true:

- a) If we do not love one another,
- b) God does not abide in us.

**X. Second John 5 • From the Beginning Until Now: Love One Another**

**5 And now I plead with you, lady, 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**

A. On the night in which Judas betrayed Jesus,

1. the commandment to love one another
2. as Jesus has loved us
  - a) was new.
  - b) Not even the Old Testament had declared such a truth.

B. Within decades of that night,

1. the new commandment
2. had become the old commandment.
  - a) It had already been around for a while, and
  - b) it is still around.
    - (1) No other commandment on love
    - (2) shall ever replace it.

C. Even as Jesus told the eleven

1. that they were to love one another
2. as he had loved them,
  - a) so now the apostles
  - b) teach us to love one another.

**Exhortation:**

**I. Tucked in one of the passages I have show you today,**

A. we learned

B. that believing in the name of the God's Son, Jesus Christ,

1. is one of God's commands.
2. Yes, love one another, but
  - a) that does not replace believing in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
  - b) We must absolutely believe this truth.

**II. If you love God,**

A. you will fully accept Jesus of Nazareth as the Son of God.

B. If you believe and love Jesus,

1. you will do whatever he teaches and commands.
2. If you love one another,
  - a) you will cease sinning against others, and
  - b) you will submit to baptism (Mark 16.16).