

Love One Another; John 13:34-35

- I. Love
 - a. We tend to have a one-sided view of love
 - i. Affection for each other
 - ii. Passion for your husband or wife
 - iii. A warm, fuzzy feeling when we talk, think about, or see someone
 - b. We use this word for many other things – I “love” ice cream, golf, trucks, football, the Cubs, etc.
 - c. We need to come back to the idea of Biblical love
- II. Prove
 - a. To practice, express, or prove one’s love
 - b. John 13:34–35 (ESV); 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.”
 - c. We often mistake love for a feeling, but the biblical understanding here is to offer proof of your love
 - d. We say the words “I love you” all the time – they have to be followed up by action
 - i. The mark of a Christian is love – love for our fellow Christians, love for the lost, love for our ‘neighbor’
 - ii. In Jesus’ parable of the Samaritan that helped the Israelite who was beaten and left for dead we see love in action – love for someone who was not a friend, but a neighbor
 - iii. Right now our country is feeling the effects of a group of people who do not feel loved
 - iv. This group has singled themselves out by the color of their skin
 - v. In Jesus’ parable the Israelite was singled out by his ethnicity, and the Samaritan also
 - vi. Jesus used the Israelites’ enemy to prove a point, love overcomes hate – Jesus asks the lawyer this enlightening question, “Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?”
 - vii. Love requires empathy, understanding and sharing the feelings of another
 - viii. We tend to want to prove our own lack of prejudice instead of our love
 - ix. “Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.” Martin Luther King Jr.
 - x. “Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend” Martin Luther King Jr.
 - e. We must prove our love to our fellow Christians and to the lost – Jesus uses washing His disciples’ feet to prove his point (love).
 - f. In life, love is a verb, not a noun
 - g. Loving one another is proving our love to each other
- III. Cherish
 - a. 1 Peter 4:8 (ESV); Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

- b. Cherish – to protect and care for someone lovingly
- c. To keep or cultivate with care and affection: nurture¹
 - i. We often save our cherishing, our nurturing for things other than people
 - ii. Pets – “I’m not a people person, I have pets”
 - iii. That excuse won’t fly with God
 - iv. We must become ‘people persons’ (people?)
 - v. Just as the Samaritan cared for and nurtured the Israelite, we must also
- d. Compassion is another form of cherishing, loving, caring
 - i. Matthew 9:35–38 (ESV); ³⁵ And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”
 - ii. Jesus cherished the people He walked with, healing them and providing protection as a shepherd does his sheep
 - iii. Jesus cherished the people He walked with, sending out his disciples to proclaim the “Kingdom is at hand”
 - iv. Luke 22:42 (ESV); saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”
 - v. Luke 23:34 (ESV); And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments.
 - vi. Jesus, knowing that He was the only sacrifice that could forgive sin, put the needs of His creation, humanity, before His own wants
- e. Loving one another is cherishing, caring, nurturing each other

IV. Attributes

- a. 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 (ESV); ⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- b. Patient – to remain tranquil while waiting, have patience, wait; to bear up under provocation without complaint, be patient, forbearing²
- c. Kind – Loving and merciful
- d. Does not envy – to have intense negative feelings over another’s achievements or success, be filled with jealousy, envy³
- e. Or boast – to heap praise on yourself

¹ Inc Merriam-Webster, [Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary](#). (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

² William Arndt et al., [A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 612.

³ Ibid, 427.

- f. Not Arrogant – to have an exaggerated self-conception, puff up, make proud⁴
 - g. Rude – behave disgracefully, dishonorable, or indecently
 - h. Does not insist – to devote serious effort to getting your own way
 - i. Not irritable – to become angry
 - j. Or resentful – to keep score or track of someone’s mistakes in order to punish them
 - k. Wrongdoing versus truth
 - i. A lot of people today glory in sinful behavior instead of the truth of God’s word
 - ii. Some people even glory or revel in other’s mistakes
 - iii. God’s truth is unchanging – God’s word is truth
 - iv. Love rejoices when other people get it right
 - l. When we love one another we display these attributes
- V. Love One Another
- a. 1 John 4:7–12 (ESV); 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.
 - b. Prove our love to one another
 - c. Nurture and care for one another
 - d. Love one another

⁴ Ibid, 1069.