

A DEEPER LOVE

Rev. Dr. Richard C. Whitcomb pastor.whitcomb@agapehouseghana.org

John 13:34-35 "Jesus said, 'So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples."

Three Truths About a Deeper Love

1. A Deeper Love Is a New Imperative.

John 13:34 "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other."

The deeper you love, the deeper you are in God.

1 John 4:7-8 "Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

1 Corinthians 13:1-2 "If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing."

1 John 4:20-21 "If someone says, 'I love God,' but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? And He has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their Christian brothers and sisters." Matthew 22:37-40 "Jesus replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

2. A Deeper Love Imitates Christ's Love.

John 13:34 "Just as I have loved you, you should love each other."

Philippians 2:2 "Show your love for each other."

Philippians 2:3-8 "In whatever you do, don't let selfishness or pride be your guide. Be humble, and honor others more than yourselves. Don't be interested only in your own life, but care about the lives of others too. In your life together, think the way Christ Jesus thought. He was like God in every way, but He did not think that His being equal with God was something to use for His own benefit. Instead, He gave up everything, even His place with God. He accepted the role of a servant, appearing in human form. During His life as a man, He humbled Himself by being fully obedient to God, even when that caused His death - death on a cross."

Matthew 12:25 "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand."

Romans 12:5 "We are many people, but in Christ we are all one body. We are the parts of that body, and each part belongs to all the others."

1 John 3:11, 16, 18 "This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another. We know what real love is because Jesus gave up His life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions."

3. A Deeper Love Impacts the World.

John 13:35 "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples."

Ephesians 2:19 "You are a member of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian."

Following Jesus is not just about believing. It's about belonging.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 "Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken."

Matthew 18:19-20 "I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, My Father in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three gather together as My followers, I am there among them."

Psalm 133:1, 3 "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! For there the Lord bestows His blessing, even life forevermore."

Hebrews 10:25 "We must not quit meeting together, as some are doing.

No, we need to keep on encouraging each other. This becomes more and more important as you see the Day getting closer."

1 Peter 4:8 "Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other."

Memory Verse: John 13:34-35 "Jesus said, 'So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples."