

COMMANDS OF CHRIST



3. Love One Another

Let's look at another command that Jesus gave. It is found in John 13:34. What is this command? The command is that we love one another. We are going to look at a story that Jesus told which teaches us what it means to love one another in the way He commanded.

Scripture Reading: Luke 10:25-37

Some suggestions:

- i. You could read the story one time and then ask each one in the group to read it themselves.
- ii. Act out the story, with someone to take the part of the man who was robbed, and others to take the part of the Samaritan, the priest, the Levite and the innkeeper.

A. Why should we love one another?

a.) It is a command of Jesus

A man who was a teacher of the Old Testament Law asked Jesus how to find eternal life. Jesus asked him what the most important commandment was. The man answers in v27. The most important command is that we love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind. Then the second most important command is "Love your neighbour as yourself." Jesus explains what this means in the story He told of the Good Samaritan. We are to love others just as we love ourselves. In John 13:34 Jesus changes this command, and He calls it a new commandment. He says, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another." Jesus not only wants us to love others in the way we love ourselves, but to love them in the same way that He loved us.

b.) It pleases God

What did the priest and the Levite do when they saw the man on the road? Look at v31, 32. Yes, they walked by on the other side and did not help him. These men were religious but perhaps they thought that religion was just believing some truths about God. Jesus is showing us that kind of religion does not please God. If we really love God then we will love one another. Look at 1 John 4:8-12, 19-21. We cannot say we love God if we do not love one another. But when we love one another it shows that our love for God is real. And God is pleased! If we love one another then God will live in us and show His love to us.

c.) It proves we are disciples of Jesus

Turn back to John 13:34-35. Jesus says that when we love one another then everyone will know that we are His disciples. God wants us to be like Jesus. Jesus was filled with love and demonstrated that love by giving His life for us. As we love others with this kind of love, it shows the world what Jesus is like. When people see us loving one another they will believe that our Jesus is real.

B. Who should we love?

Let us go back to the story in Luke 10 of the Good Samaritan. The second greatest command is "Love your neighbour as yourself." The Teacher of the Law asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbour?" Perhaps we think that our neighbour is only the person living next to us, or our relatives and friends. But Jesus says that our

neighbour is any person we meet, even those we do not know. The Samaritan did not know the man lying on the road. He had never seen him before. This man was a Samaritan and the injured man was a Jew. At that time the Jews and the Samaritans did not speak to each other, but this Samaritan man reached out to the injured man and helped him. Jesus said that this is what it means to love your neighbour.

We too are to love others. Not just our friends and relatives, but any person we meet. It should make no difference what race they are or whether they are rich or poor. If someone comes across our path who has a need that we can meet, then we should help them.

C. How should we love?

When the Samaritan saw the injured man his heart was filled with pity. v33. The Samaritan could have said, "O that man is a Jew!", but he didn't, he had compassion on him. Many times we read how Jesus had compassion for those in need and stopped and helped them. As we allow God's Spirit to fill our lives, God will give us compassion for people in need.

What did the Samaritan do for the injured man? See v34-35. His concern for the injured man cost him a lot: his oil and wine, his time, money and personal attention. Love is costly. It cost Jesus His life. And Jesus said that we are to love one another in the same way that He loved us. We are to give our money, our time and what we have to love others. Love is not just empty words, but it is practical. Look at 1 John 3:16, 18. What can you do this week to help someone in need?

Conclusion

Today we have learnt that Jesus commands us to love one another. When we truly love others God will be pleased and it proves we are the disciples of Jesus. We are not only to love those who know, but all people we meet, whatever race they are. Our love is not just to be in words, but we are to show that love in action.