

**The Point:** The Church should be famous for its LOVE.

**John 13:34-35** <sup>34</sup> A new command I give you: **Love one another**. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this **everyone will know** that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (NIV)

**Leviticus 19:18** "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but **love** your neighbor as yourself ..." (NIV)

**Mark 12:29-31** <sup>29</sup> The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> **Love the Lord** your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup> The second is this: '**Love your neighbor** as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (NIV)

**1 John 3:16-18** <sup>16</sup> This is how we know what **love** is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the **love** of God be in that person? <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not **love** with words or speech but with **actions** and **in truth**." (NIV)

### **WHY IS LOVING LIKE JESUS SO IMPORTANT?**

**1 John 3:10** "This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not **love** their brother and sister."

1. It shows we TAKE SERIOUSLY Jesus' command.
2. It shows are HEARTS are changing.
3. It shows we see PEOPLE differently.
4. It shows we are starting to understand GRACE.
5. It shows the TEACHINGS OF JESUS are true.

### **HOW TO LOVE LIKE JESUS**

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8** <sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails."

1. Be PATIENT with people.

**1 Corinthians 13:4** "Love is patient ..."

2. Be NICE to people.

**1 Corinthians 13:4** "Love is ... kind"

3. Be SECURE with yourself.

**1 Corinthians 13:4** "... it does not envy, it does not boast ..."

4. Be willing to LISTEN.

**1 Corinthians 13:4** "... it is not proud ..."

5. Be CONSIDERATE.

**1 Corinthians 13:5** "... it does not dishonor others ..."

6. Put others FIRST.

**1 Corinthians 13:5** "... it is not self-seeking ..."

7. Learn to control your REACTIONS.

**1 Corinthians 13:5** "... it is not easily angered ..."

8. Learn to FORGIVE.

**1 Corinthians 13:5** "... it keeps no record of wrongs."

9. Maintain godly CHARACTER.

**1 Corinthians 13:6** "Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth."

10. Look out for THE BEST.

**1 Corinthians 13:7** "Love always protects ..."

11. Expect THE BEST.

**1 Corinthians 13:7** "... always trusts ..."

12. Be POSITIVE.

**1 Corinthians 13:7** "... always hopes ..."

13. KEEP loving, no matter what!

**1 Corinthians 13:7** "... always perseveres."

### **BOTTOM LINE**

**1 Corinthians 13:8** "Love NEVER fails..."

**John 13:35** "By this **everyone will know** that you are my disciples, if you **love** one another." (NIV)

### **COMMUNION**

**1 John 4:7-12** <sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us **love** one another, for **love** comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not **love** does not know God, because God is **love**. <sup>9</sup> This is

how God showed His **love** among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup> This is **love**: not that we **loved** God, but that He **loved** us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear Friends, since God so **loved** us, we also ought to **love** one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we **love** one another, God lives in us and His **love** is made complete in us." (NIV)

## **BENEDICTION**

**1 Thessalonians 3:12-13** <sup>12</sup> May the Lord make your **love** increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. <sup>13</sup> May He strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when the Lord Jesus comes with all His holy ones." (NIV)