



The Good News

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Love Thy Neighbor As Thyself

By Michael McCleary

When discussing the concept of love, one of the more quoted Scriptures is **John 15:12**, “*This is my commandment, that ye should love one another as I have loved you.*” Often, we sing **#394 “Love One Another”**. We are so surrounded by the concept of Christian love that sometimes when we hear the preacher or someone else speak about love, we roll our eyes and think, “I already know all this...do I have to hear it again?” If we ever have these thoughts, consider this...how do we apply that knowledge? If we know all we need to know about brotherly love, then when do we use it? How do we show it?

In the verse previously quoted, Jesus says that we should love one another, just as He loved us...what does that mean? When one considers the way that Jesus loved us, what all comes to mind? We consider the fact that He left His home with the Father in order to fulfill His Father’s will to be born, live, and die all for us. We consider how He moved with compassion on the multitudes that would encompass Him. He gave them the Bread of life, showed them the way to the Father, and taught them the attitudes that they were to have in their dealings with God and each other. Finally, we see His scourging and beatings, being nailed through the hands and the feet on that cruel tree at Calvary. In doing these things, He also gave us His words, His example, His death by which we can have this strong assurance of hope, looking beyond the veil of death for that great Glory-land of song. We consider the song **#647 “The Way that He Loves”**, and how it brings to our minds the way Jesus loves us even now as we walk on this earth, having been redeemed from our sins in baptism; He walks with us every step of the way. When we consider all of these powerful facts, we realize the full extent of what Jesus was commanding His apostles, and us, when He said, “...*love one another as I have loved you.*” Jesus’ love was pure, sincere, unfeigned. He showed it by His actions, dying on the

cross for each of us. As we consider this love that He had in such abundance, we ask, “Do I have that kind of love?”

When we walk with our brethren on the road to Heaven, do we have the kind of sincere, unfeigned love that He had, dying for us? When we walk with our neighbors and friends on the roads of life, do we have the kind of compassion and zealous love that He had, moving Him to speak to the multitudes, sharing with them the words of the Father to save them? We can learn from **I Cor. 13** that we can have all kinds of righteous deeds and wonderful gifts, but if we do not have love, those attributes do not profit us. What profit do they bring us if we do not serve God, our brethren, and our neighbors with love in our hearts? Paul says in **Gal. 5:13-14**, “*For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’*” In our service to God, we cannot neglect the love that we are to show others in our actions. It is not an action of convenience, showing our love to each other only when we feel like it. Was it convenient for the Samaritan to stop and care for the wounded man at the side of the road in **Luke 10:30ff**? Consider what that man sacrificed for this stranger: he gave his emotions, his time, his own goods and money in order to care for this man. How much more should we be willing to sacrifice for our spiritual family, with whom we will spend eternity after judgment?

I Peter 1:22 reads, “*Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love (noun) of the brethren, love (verb) one another fervently with a pure heart.*” Brethren, let us show this kind of love for our brethren, allowing it to be the same fervent love that Jesus had for us.