

Introduction to I Love My Church

Text: John 13:34-35

Series: I Love My Church

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

Elkin, NC

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I. WHAT IS THE COMMAND?

“Love one another as I have loved you, that ye also love one another”

- A. According to Jesus, this is a command, an order, a directive that should not be taken lightly.
- B. This is a standard, a principle, and a code of conduct.
- C. This is a new commandment

II. HOW DID CHRIST LOVE OTHERS?

- A. Christ loves with a divine love (*John 15:9*)
- B. Christ loves with an unchangeable love (*John 13:11*)
- C. Christ loves with a sacrificial love (*Gal. 2:20*)
- D. Christ loves with an inseparable love (*Rom. 8:35-39*)

III. HOW IS IT POSSIBLE FOR BELIEVERS TO LOVE WITH CHRIST’S LOVE?

- A. Our capacity to love as Christ loves isn’t something we create; it’s a gift from the Lord.
- B. When a person is born again through faith in Jesus Christ and repentance, they undergo a profound transformation.
- C. At the moment of conversion, the Holy Spirit enters the person’s life, pouring out God’s love into the heart of every believer (*Rom. 5:5*)
- D. When we are saved, we enter into a personal relationship with Christ and with each other, creating a family.

IV. WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO INTENTIONALLY LOVE THE CHURCH?

- A. Love through connection
- B. Love by serving
- C. Love through giving
- D. Love by sharing

V. WHY IS LOVING ONE ANOTHER IMPORTANT?

“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another”

- A. Our love for one another proves that we are genuine followers of Christ
(*1 John 3:14-18; 4:20-21*)
- B. Our ability to love and stay united is clear proof to the world that we belong to Jesus