

The Command: Love One Another

John 15: 12 – 17

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Series: Holidays

John 15: 12 -17

¹² “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. ¹³ “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ “You are My friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ “No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. ¹⁷ “This I command you, that you love one another.

Love as I Have Loved You. Vv. 12 - 13

- The command is clear that God's people are to love one another.
 - How to love is clear – as He has loved us.
 - This is not easy, but is clearly commanded everywhere in Scripture.
- Greater love is seen in the sacrifice of your life.
 - This is often used in Memorial Day services.
 - The point is that Jesus Himself would so demonstrate His great love in dying for us.
 - In the same way we are to die to ourselves in our love for each other.

A New Relationship. Vv. 14 – 15.

- Jesus identifies His followers as friends for the first time.
 - This friendship is based on obedience to do His commands.
 - Jesus has revealed all things from the father to us.
 - Slaves don't know the reasons or purpose of their orders, only to obey.
 - As friends of Jesus we obey Him as Lord, and follow his commands as friends knowing the purpose and reason.
- This new relationship will even develop to where Jesus calls His followers brethren (cf. John 20: 17)

Chosen for Mission. Vv. 16 - 17

- Unlike disciples who chose a rabbi to follow, Jesus chose His disciples.
 - He appointed them to go and bear fruit.
 - Fruit in life (Galatians 5: 22- 23) and converts.
 - Fruit identified as what remains, permanent fruit.
- Being in Christ and serving according to His will, we can know that God will answer our prayers.
 - Our mission is impossible without God working it out through us.
- Like a “book-end” Jesus repeats the command – Love one another.

Conclusion

- Christians are commanded to love each other so much that we sacrificially serve each other.
- Jesus has revealed the Father's plans and purposes for us as we have it in Scripture and we are servants of the Lord, but also considered friends.
- Our friendship and service to the Lord is dependent on our obedience to His commands.
- We are commissioned to bear lasting fruit, praying for Holy Spirit power in Jesus' name to fulfill our mission.