

## The Importance of “One Another” Starts With Love

**Opener:** When have you seen love make a difference just when you were about to give up on someone?

**Scripture:** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

“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.” John 13:34-35

Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord. Leviticus 19:18

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. I John 4:10-12

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. I Corinthians 13:4-8

### Discussion Questions

1. “Loving one another” always involves walking in the light. What does it mean to “walk in the light” when it comes to relationships? How are relationships between those who walk in the light different from relationships between those who don’t walk in the light? I John 1:7
2. Loneliness is epidemic. People yearn for fellowship—for genuine community. How does 1 John 1:7 give us insight into why this is happening? What does the fact that Jesus’ blood purifies us from sin have to do with walking in the light and having healthy relationships? I John 4:10-12
3. In John 13:34-35 Jesus commanded his disciples to love one another, which is particularly stunning considering that He knew Judas was about to betray Him and Peter was about to deny Him. How would this have prepared them for what was ahead? How does it prepare us for when others disappoint us? 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
4. Why do you think Jesus referred to this as a “new” command when it had already been commanded in the Old Testament? Leviticus 19:18
5. How does Jesus love? What makes it possible for us to love like that? What difference would it make if we did? What difference does it make if we don’t? Can you grow in Christ without loving like He does? John 13:34-35; I John 4:10-12; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
6. What aspect of “loving one another” is hardest for you? What are the biggest challenges to loving others unconditionally, especially when there are disagreements, conflicts, or you’re just super busy? What’s helped you most to love those who are difficult to love?

**Wrap Up:** For the first and only time in history, Jesus created a group whose identifying factor is love. Actually, His command was to love like He loves—but can anyone really do that? After all, he raised the bar to extraordinary heights. Thankfully, we don’t have to because Jesus does the loving through us. Like turning water into wine, He turns our best efforts, which often fall short, into something better than we could have ever offered on our own. That’s how we love like Jesus.