

1A ONE ANOTHER

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January 3, 2021
Week 1: Love One Another (John 13:34-35)

Introduction:

Ephesians 4:3

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Love One Another

John 13:34-35

- Jesus gives a Brand New Command
- This is given to a people who are a New Creation
- Living under the grace of His New Covenant

The Old Covenant was an "IF...THEN..." arrangement: "If I live this way, God will bless me..."

The New Covenant is a "SINCE...THEREFORE..." arrangement: "Since God has unconditionally blessed me, therefore I can live this way..."

Life Application – Loving One Another Means...

1. Trusting in the _____
2. Looking for the _____
3. Living in the _____

The Big Idea:

We don't have a prayer of obeying these "one another" commands if we think they are *prescriptive* (If I...then God will...). In reality, under the New Covenant of grace they become *descriptive* (Since God...therefore I can...).

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. If you're being completely honest, do you typically operate in a "transactional" relationship with God, where you think along the lines of, "If I do such-and-such...then God will do such-and-such?"
2. Why is this way of relating to God in conflict with the New Covenant of grace?

Ponderings:

3. In John 13:34, Jesus gives His followers a "new command" to "love one another" as Jesus has loved them. How does the utter impossibility of accomplishing this lead us to greater dependence upon Christ to live His life in and through us? Discuss...
4. Coming out of a year in which the fragility of our culture has been so vividly exposed, why is it more important now than ever that the world sees disciples of Jesus loving one another as He has loved us? Discuss...

Promptings:

5. Are you willing to trust God for the "since/therefore" life as opposed to the transactional "if/then" mentality that so many believers project onto their relationship with God?
6. Are you willing to sit down with people who disagree with, looking for the "both/ands" rather than always having to be right or prove your point?
7. Of the three relational possibilities (over/over, over/under and under/under), how will 2021 become the year in which the "under/under" posture becomes the way that you operate with others? Discuss...