

The background features abstract, flowing waves of color. At the top, a thick, vibrant red wave curves across the frame. Below it, a thinner, more ethereal yellow wave flows. At the bottom, another thick red wave curves upwards, overlapping with a yellow wave that flows from the right side towards the center. The overall effect is one of dynamic, organic movement.

JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE OF LOVE

John 13:34-35; 15:12-17



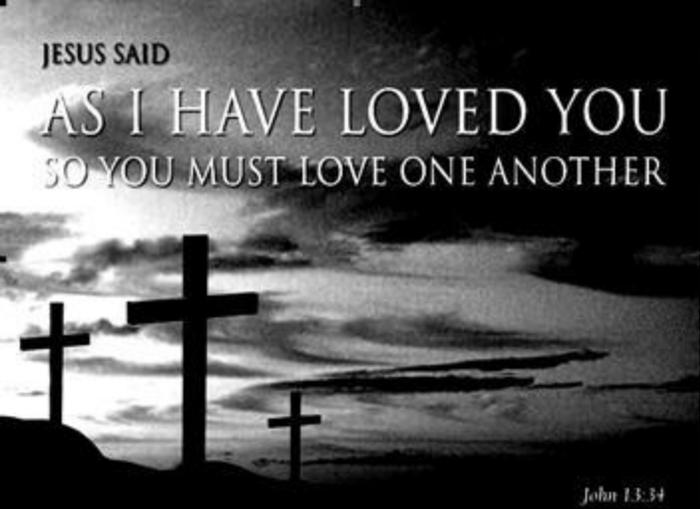
THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT AGAIN

- In Kenora Bible Church we mention the **Greatest Commandment** often. Please bear with my repetitiveness.
- Nevertheless we cannot study through the Gospel of John without mentioning the Greatest Commandment. It is especially important here in John 13 since it is the **first mention** of the “new” version of the same commandment.
- Moreover, it is God who chooses to **repeat** it (John 15:12-17; Gal. 5:13-14; Eph. 5:1-2; Col. 3:12-14; 1 Thes. 3:12; 4:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:8-9; 1 John 2:7-11; 3:14-18, 23; 4:7-11, 23; 2 John 1:5)



WHY THIS IS NEW?

- We had this command already in the OT. (Lev. 19:18, 34)
- The **new** part is the standard to which this commandment is based upon—**as yourself** in the OT, **as Christ** in the NT.
- At the core it is the exact same commandment since we should see ourselves and care for ourselves as the way God sees us. It is our **identity** in God and our **value** in God that matter. If we love ourselves in the way God loves us, we can extend that love to our neighbors as well.
- The sad thing is that **none** of us do this. (Phil. 2:21)



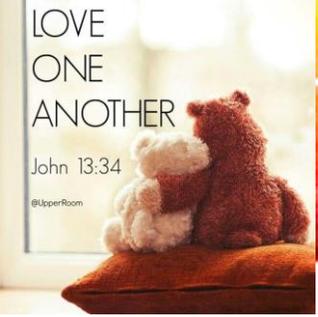
GOD IS OUR EXAMPLE

- Let us think for a minute: **How** does Jesus love us? And in comparison: how do we love the people around us?
- (Lam. 3:22-23) **Steadfast** love (or lovingkindness)
- **Mercies**—love that is **compassionate**, ready to forgive
- **Faithfulness**—love that is **dependable** and constant
- Do we love our neighbors in the **same** manner? (1 John 4:7-11)



FRIENDSHIP (JOHN 15:12-17)

- Good friends usually have much in **common** (i.e. interests)
- The closer a friendship usually means the more similar beliefs, passions, dreams, and goals. They will enjoy talking about it together and pursuing it together as friends.
- We are the “interest” of Jesus. As His friend do we pursue His interest, as in **loving one another**?
- The more you have in common with Jesus, the **deeper** the friendship will be, and the **more** you will love your neighbors, which will align your heart even closer with Him.



OTHERS WILL KNOW

- (13:35) The foundation of our testimony is **love** (not behavior, appearance, background, presentation, etc.)
- We can do good deeds and produce great achievements and God may **NOT receive the glory** (we do instead)
- However, this is unique when we love one another, to love the unlovable, to love our enemies, to love our spouse or even our neighbors when he or she just hurt us badly...all these require God and His love.
- And when it is **impossible** without God, God receives the glory to all that witness God's love.



Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love...Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4:7-8, 11)

- How does your love to others **compare** to Jesus' love?
- When people **see you**, do they see Jesus' love?
- What is the **one thing** that you can do this week to show God's love to others?