



**Loving Our Neighbors**  
**Love the Way Jesus Taught It**  
**The New Standard of Love**

**1 Corinthians 11:26** - *For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.*

1. Implementing our soul care initiatives to achieve deeper friendships within our church family.
2. As individual church members, growing in our ability to build stronger relationships with those who live right around us.
3. As a church family, developing our "parish mentality" to especially serve those who live near our two ministry campuses.
4. Launching our Faith Community Development Corporation to serve urban neighborhoods with excellence.
5. Constructing the first phase of our Senior Living Community.

"In the midst of the world, in the midst of our present, dying culture, Jesus is giving a right to the world. Upon His authority he gives the world the right to judge whether you or I are born-again Christians on the basis of our discernable love toward all Christians." Francis Shaffer

3 lessons to help us grow in our love for those the Lord has placed around us

**I. Loving Others Brings Glory to God**

A. The meaning of the word glorify

1. To influence one's opinion about another so as to enhance the latter's reputation
2. To cause to have splendid greatness

B. The cross taught important lessons about God the Son

**13:31** - *Now is the Son of Man glorified*

1. Rejection did not stop Him from loving

**Acts 3:13** - *The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, the one whom you delivered and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him.*

2. He was willing to die for the penalty of our sin

**Colossians 2:14** - *having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*

3. He freed us from the power of our sin

**Romans 8:3** - *For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,*

4. He freed us from the terror of death

**Hebrews 2:14** - *Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,*

C. The cross taught important lessons about God the Father

**13:31** - *Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him;*

1. The cross demonstrates God's justice

**Romans 6:23** - *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

2. The cross demonstrates God's holiness

"Never did God so clearly manifest His holy hatred for sin than in the suffering and death of His Son. The Father loves the Son with an infinite love. Yet when Jesus became a curse for believers on the cross (Gal. 3:13), the Father, 'whose eyes are too pure to approve evil and...cannot look on wickedness with favor' (Hab. 1:3) turned away from Him. That caused Jesus to cry out in agony, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me' (Matt. 27:46)." John MacArthur, *Gospel of John*, vol. 2, p. 88

3. The cross demonstrates God's love

**John 3:16** - *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

D. Sacrificial love can glorify God today

**Matthew 5:16** - *Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

## II. Loving Others Requires New Life

A. Please note the tenderness of this discussion

**v. 33** - *Little children*

**John 13:33** - *...I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.*

**John 13:34** - *...you love one another...*

B. The intensity of the command

"The new command is simple enough for a toddler to memorize and appreciate, profound enough that the most mature believers are repeatedly embarrassed at how poorly they comprehend it and put it into practice." D.A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John*, p. 484

Leviticus 19:18 - *You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.*

C. How the commandment is new

**John 13:34** - *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*

D. The impact this can have

**John 13:35** - *By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*

**1 Thessalonians 3:12** - *and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you;*

**Galatians 6:10** - *So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.*

## III. Loving Others Involves a Realistic Assessment of Your Own Strength

A. Peter's assertion

**13:37** - *Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You."*

**13:38** - *Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me?..."*

**John 13:38** - *Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times."*

B. Peter's silence

**1 Peter 1:18-23** - *knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.*