

## **Jesus, the Man of Love: "He Commanded the New Commandment"**

### **I. Jesus loved us enough to command us to love as He loved.**

A. Jesus loved us so that He died to cleanse His church from sin.

**Ephesians. 5:25-26** Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, [26] that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

**Acts 22:16** And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

Jesus loved us so that He showed us love by His life.

**1 John 4:8** Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

**John 1:18** No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

B. Jesus loved us so that He commanded us to love as He had loved.

**John 13:33-34** Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' [34] A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

C. What is new in this "new commandment?"

### **II. Jesus loved so that He commanded us to love like the "old commandments," as He loved in His human life.**

A. Jesus' command to love rather than merely obey is not new.

1. Jesus does command us to love God.

#### **Romans 8:28**

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

#### **James 1:12**

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

**James 2:5**

Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

2. Jesus says that this love is seen when we obey God.

**John 14:21**

Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

**John 15:10**

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

3. This is not new to Jesus, however!
4. God had commanded this to Israel in His law and His prophets.

Deut. 6:5

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Matthew 22:37

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

Mark 12:30

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

Luke 10:27

And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

Deut. 10:12-13

"And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, [13] and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good?"

Deut. 20:20

Only the trees that you know are not trees for food you may destroy and cut down, that you may build siegeworks against the city that makes war with you, until it falls.

Joshua 22:5

Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul."

B. Jesus' command to love our neighbor is not new.

1. Jesus does command that we love our neighbors.

Matthew 19:19

Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 22:39

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Romans 13:9

The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Galatians 5:14

For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

James 2:8

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

2. This is not new to Jesus, however! God had commanded this to Israel in His Law - which all of these New Testament passages are quoting! Lev. 19:15-18, esp. 19:18.

**Leviticus 19:15-18**

"You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. <sup>16</sup>You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

<sup>17</sup>"You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. <sup>18</sup>You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

C. Jesus' command to love strangers and enemies is not really new!

1. Jesus commands us to love strangers and enemies.

**Matthew 5:43-44**

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' [44] But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

**Luke 6:27**

"But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,

**Romans 12:13**

Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

**Hebrews 13:2**

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

2. This is not actually new to Jesus

Deut. 10:19

Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

Leviticus 19:33-34

"When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. [34] You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among

you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

D. Jesus' command to love as He loved had never been possible before he showed us in His flesh how to love.

1. When we want "more," we get less God and more worldliness. I Jn. 2:15-17, II Jn. 9.

### **III. You can obey this commandment!**

A. Jesus' command invites us to be what God had always intended that we be. I Jn. 4:17-19.

B. Consider Mk. 16:16, Acts 2:38 & 17:30-31, Matt. 10:32-33, Rom. 6:3-7 & Gal. 3:26-27, I Jn. 1:5-2:2.

Will you love like Jesus who loved you?

Ed Sanderson, Sr.