

Study Guide

Sermon Series: One Another

Scripture Passage: John 13:34-35

April 30th 2017

Pray

Open our eyes today Lord, to the depth, width, and length of your love for us. As you stooped down to wash the feet of your followers, humble us today in our hearing of your word to us. May we be formed and shaped in the image of the one who knelt to tenderly cleanse the feet of sinners. Amen.

Read: John 13:34-35

Take note of what words or phrases stand out to you.

Understanding the Gospel

1. Read all of John 13. What is the context of the commandment He gives to His disciples in verse 34? How does the gospel describe Jesus' love for his disciples?
2. In just three sentences Jesus uses the word "love" four times and the phrase "one another" three times. Why is this repetition important?
3. What reason does Jesus give for leaving his disciples with this commandment?

Living the Gospel

1. In describing the heart of this passage, the biblical scholar Dale Bruner writes, "the mutually lived-out heart love of Christians for one another will be the single greatest missionary force in the world."
 - Why might the disciples' learning to love each other need to precede their learning to love those outside of the tightly knit company of Jesus followers?
 - What kind of reasons do Christians give for not loving one another?
2. When have you seen the church practice extraordinary love in a way that gave you a deep and abiding sense of hope?
3. In what ways can you actively "love one another" in your own neighborhood?

Prayer

Jesus, thank you for the gift of your love. Your love doesn't recognize and celebrate beauty and goodness, but creates beauty and value by its presence. Help us in the coming week both to understand the depths of your love for us, and show us how we might better embody that love to others. May our love for you and for one another be strengthened and enlivened by your Spirit, through Christ our Lord. Amen.