



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Sermon Title: *“LOVE ONE ANOTHER”*

Scripture: John 13:34-35

Date: September 13th, 2015

STORIES OF FAITH

As you begin this season with your Life Group, invite the group to share ‘Evidences of God’s Grace’ that they experienced or observed over this summer. How have you seen God at work?

NEW SERMON SERIES

“One Anothering: the loving counter-culture of gospel-community”

We begin a new series on being Christian-community with Jesus’ command that we love one another as He loved us. Incarnation-love: no distance He would not go. Cross-love: no sacrifice too great. Gospel-love: the most compelling, total love imaginable. How Jesus loved us, we are to love one another, and it will be our most powerful witness in the world.

“An new commandment I give to you, that you love one-another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciple, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34-35

OPENING COMMENT

In Sunday’s sermon we were challenged to look at “the loving counter-culture of gospel community” as we live out Central’s purpose statement of Loving God, Loving People and Serving our World. How would you explain Central’s purpose statement? How would you practically live out Loving God (Jesus), Loving People (Community) and Serving our World (Mission)?

WORKING THROUGH THE PASSAGE

- 1) The Love of Christian Community has Jesus as our Model.
 - a) Verse 34 tells us that we are commanded to love one another as Jesus has loved us. What are a number of ways in which Jesus has loved us?
 - b) What have you personally learned from Jesus’ life and example on how to “love one another”?
 - c) Discuss how you can practically share the love of Christian Community like Jesus.

- 2) The Love of Christian Community is more costly and beautiful than you think.
 - a) Jesus was sent by His Father to pursue us with gospel-love and it doesn't get more real, personal, deep and sacrificial than that. The great sign of Christ-like love is your love for those not easy to love, those you find difficult. What do you do about those in the Church that you'd rather avoid? What are some ways that you could love them well?
 - b) Do you find yourself relying on the empowering Holy Spirit to help you love others when it's difficult and in such a way that you otherwise could not? Why or why not?
 - c) Read 1 John 2:9-11 together - What do you discover and learn about sacrificial love for others, discuss your findings with the group.

- 3) The Love of Christian Community is our most powerful witness to a watching world.
 - a) Do you love other believers and those in your church in a way that would seem compelling to the watching world? If so, how so? If not, why not?
 - b) Loving each other well is missional: The love of Christian community is our most powerful witness to a watching world. How much thought have you given to how your 'actions in relationship' (how you treat others) reflects your witness for Jesus to a watching world?
 - c) Prayerfully ask God to point out damaged relationships in your life that need healing, and how you can rectify your own actions that have damaged relationships.

SHARE & PRAY

Identify some ways in which you could deepen your loving commitment towards each other as a group.

Pray for those in your life you are struggling to love like Jesus loves you.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower you to love with reliance on His strength.

In prayer personally and as a group, ask that we may give ourselves to loving well

Pray that the fruit of the spirit abound more and more in each one of our lives and as a Church, beginning with love.

Pray that our love for one another be our most powerful witness to all those who don't know Jesus.