christian advance archives

# advance in discipleship – christ like love – 06/14/18

**CHRIST LIKE LOVE**

The term ‘love’ is unarguably diluted in meaning within American society. “I love my car”; “I love my job”; “I love Starbucks” are phrases common in human pleasantry. We know what they mean but it does dilute the power of the word ‘love’. But Jesus makes a defining statement in John 13:34, **“A new commandment I give you, that you love one another**, ***even as I have loved you,* that you also love one another.** Then he points to the evidence of a follower in verse 35, **“By this all men will know you are My disciples, if you love one another.”** Love is paramount for the disciple of Jesus!

In **Mark 12:28-34** Jesus gives the ‘greatest commandment(s)’ and both hinge upon love. Loving God and loving our neighbor (and I would again clarify – the way Jesus loved). This is a little shocking because we look upon all the Law as being equally important, not ranked in a hierarchy. But there it is! Jesus himself says love of God and neighbor is the greatest. It is interesting to note that neither of these are from the Ten Commandments, they are found in Deut. 6:4-5 and Lev. 19:18.

**Matthews** version (**22:34-40**) takes Marks expression a little further. Matthew says that all the Old Testament (all of God’s word) the law and the prophets depend upon or ‘hinge’ on the great commandment to love God and love your neighbor. We know ***“God is One”*** (Deut. 6:4) and ***“God is love”*** (1 John 4:7-21). There is a unity of love within the Godhead and His character unites all things. If He is living in you His character should be shining through.

Paul then moves the ball across the goal line in **Romans 13:8-10** in another shocking statement, ***“love is the fulfillment of the law.”*** Paul calls the Roman Christians to do so. Paul believes it is possible in this life to love God and others as Jesus did. When living life in the Spirit it is possible and you have fulfilled the law! Paul tells the **Galatian** Christians the same thing **(5:13-14).** Paul’s prayer for the Ephesian Christians is that they would know this love and live it out in this world (**Eph. 3:14-19**).

To love as Christ loved is the paramount passion to develop in all disciples. It is to be your example as a disciple maker and your modus operandus. The matrix of all your thoughts, words, actions, feelings etc. is out of the Holy Spirit living in/through you in Christ like love.