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# THE TRUTH HERALD

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## The New Commandment: "Love One Another As I Have Loved You."



*1 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. (John 13:34, KJV)*

Christ Jesus has *commanded* (not suggested to, recommended to, encouraged) His disciples to love one another. Are you a disciple of Christ? Then you are commanded to love other children of God. This is the law of Christ (Gal 6:2). It is also the distinguishing mark of His disciples: "By this everyone will know you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35, NIV)

*2 - Dear friends, let us love one another for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:7-8, NIV)*

Where does love come from? The Bible tells us that love comes from God (1 John 4:7b). God is love. (1 John 4:8b, 16). How do we love? We need God in order to love. When we receive God's one and only Son Jesus Christ, He gives us His Holy Spirit who sheds His love abroad in our hearts. God first showed

us His love. "This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." (1 John 4:10, NIV). "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16, NIV). The point of departure for loving like God is accepting His greatest gift made out of His great love for His created ones: His one and only Son Jesus Christ. Once we accept His Son Jesus Christ, as our Lord and Savior, His Holy Spirit comes to dwell in our hearts. (John 14:15-16; John 16:13)

*3 - The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who is given to us. (Romans. 5:5b, NIV)*

It is the Holy Spirit that enables us to love like God. God's love has been poured out into our hearts through His Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. (Romans 5:5b, NIV). He has given us His Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love. (Romans 5:5b, NLT). To love like Christ, we must first receive the love of Christ. Out of the abundance of His love, we love.

*4 - Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. ( Gal 6:2, KJV)*

To love one another is to carry one other's burdens. This is the way we fulfill the law of Christ. (Gal 6:2). We don't love because others have been nice to us. We don't love because others have carried our burdens. We don't love because we feel like it. We love because Christ has commanded us to love one another (John 13:34) and enabled us to do so by giving us His Holy Spirit to pour out *His* love into our hearts. (Romans 5:5b). We love because He first loved us.

*5 - We love because He first loved us. (1 John 4:9a, NIV)*

We love because He first loved us. The children of God are wholly dependent on His Holy Spirit in order to love one another. God's love is not dependent on another's love or behavior. God's love is unconditional: loving with no conditions and irrespective of circumstances. Our love can be unconditional only if it is God's love. His Holy Spirit enables us to love like Him.

*6 - No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another God lives in us and His love is made complete in us. (1 John 4:12b, NIV). God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment. (1 John 4:16b-17, NIV)*

The beauty of God's love is that as we begin to express it, it is perfected in us. As we love one another His love is made complete among us. We are fully equipped to love like our Father God because we have received His Son and have His Holy Spirit in our hearts. God the Holy Spirit pours out His love in our hearts. Out of the abundance of God's love, we love. *Love one another as He has loved you* and fulfill the law of Christ!