

A Community of Christlike Love  
John 13:31-35, Leviticus 19:9-18  
December 7, 2014 Second Sunday of Advent

1. A disciple of Jesus aims to become like Him.

Luke 6:40 *A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.*

John 14:12 *I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.*

2. Jesus loved others with Christlike love.

John 13:1 *It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.*

John 11:5, 36 <sup>5</sup> *Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ...* <sup>36</sup> *Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"*

3. Jesus lived in community.

Luke 6:13 *When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostle.*

4. Jesus asked his community for help and support.

Matthew 26:36-38 *Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup> He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."*

■ **Small groups and Alpha.**

5. In the Church we are called to a Christlike love.

Leviticus 19:18 *Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.*

John 13:34-35 *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

■ **There has to be MUTUAL love for people to know us as Christ's disciples.**

- And with true love and fellowship each other now embrace.
- We take fellowship too lightly.
- Jesus intends for the church to be a different kind of community. We've tried to tame it.
- A church without mutual Christlike love is like turkey soup without turkey.
- Maybe we have tofu in place of turkey or something.
- If you have chicken instead of turkey, it's chicken soup. It may still be good, but it isn't turkey soup.
- You might have a church with social affinity etc. They may do good service and even preach the gospel. But if there isn't mutual Christlike love, it isn't a church.
- Marks of the true kirk should include love! The gospel need not only to be preached but to be lived.

6. We love one another with feelings.

I Peter 1:22 *Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.*

- This isn't about liking each other. It's much deeper.

7. We love one another with words.

Ephesians 4:29 *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

8. We love in our actions.

I John 3:18 *Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.*

9. The Church is the Body of Christ.

I Corinthians 12:26-27 *If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

- I believe this is our top priority for 2015. A building would be good. We need to pay the settlement. As we said last week, I'd like to see Sunday school built up. But mainly we need to grow as a community of Christlike love

10. The Holy Spirit empowers us to love with Christlike love.

**II Corinthians 3:18 *And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.***

**I John 4:7 *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.***

**Romans 5:5 *And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.***

**II Corinthians 13:14 *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.***