



ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH #2

GROW | GLOW | GO

Established 1870

Pastor John P. Williams

“Discipleship that Matters”

“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” John 13:35

Key Term

The key term used in tonight’s lesson is love. The love in this text in Greek is the word *“Agape”* which is a God love. This is an unconditional love that looks beyond an individual’s faults. It is a love that shows affections and practices charity to others.

Introduction

The story is told of Aledia Huissen, 78, of Rotterdam, Netherlands, who has been smoking for 50 years. And for 50 years she has been trying to give up her harmful habit. But she has not been successful – that is, until recently. She has now given up cigarettes, cigars, and pipes. The secret? Let Jansen, 79, proposed marriage last year, under the circumstances that Aledia would give up smoking. Aleida says, “Will power never was enough to get me off the tobacco habit. Love did it.” Likewise, our love for God should move us to give up certain habits, and our love for God should move and encourage others to give up their habits.

Jesus speaks to his disciples in this text to let them know that their titles, positions, affiliations, etc., will not suffice as the evidence that they are His disciples. The evidence that they are disciples will show by their expression of love to each other. Remember love is not something we say, but love is something that we do! As an engage further into the lesson think of ways you can show love to others so that they will know that you are one of Jesus disciples.

Love Should not be Secret

Have you ever been in love? I’m sure if you were truly in love you could not keep it to yourself. You wanted everyone to know that you are in love and you wanted everyone to know who you were in love with. Jesus informs his disciples that he wants **“ALL”** men to know that they are His disciples. The only way that **“ALL”** men will be able to know that they are His disciples is by their ability to love each other. God does not want silent and secret Christians. God desires everyone to know that we are his children, but they will not know it by what we say they will know it by what we do. People recognize us as being Christians when we practice showing love to each other on daily basis. Everyday of our lives we should strive to love more and to show others that we love them.

Love Should be a Sacrifice

Although Jesus commands us to love one another if we are going to be honest loving others is not always easy. This was a difficult challenge that Jesus extended to his disciples because each disciple has a visible flaw. Matthew helped financially oppress his people, James and John tried to bribe Christ for a special seat in the kingdom, Peter likes to cuss and cut, Thomas will be guilty of doubting, Judas will betray Christ, and the others will fall asleep during prayer meeting in the Garden of Gethsemane. All of these disciples have visible flaws, however Jesus encourages them to love one another. Many times we allow the flaws that we know about others cause us to hate them instead of loving them. However, God has caused us to love the unlovable. We are charged to love each other even when we don't particularly want to because God has commissioned us to do so.

Love Should be Shared

Jesus didn't specify who we should love as the "another" he should charged us to love each other. If we are going to be disciples we have to show love to the saved and unsaved. We must show love to those to profess to be Christians, but don't practice being a Christian. Love must be on display from us at all times because God has called us to share His love with others. Whenever we have doubts about loving someone we should remember how much Christ loves us. He shares his love with us despite knowing all of our flaws and failures. If Christ can love us despite our issues than we should be able to share our love with others in the same manner that he has shared is love with us.

1. What are somethings you can do to show love to others? _____

2. What have you allowed to stop you from showing love? _____

3. As a disciple of Christ why do you think it is important to show love to others? _____
