

Sovereign, Sacrificial Love

John 15:12–17

John 15:12–17 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. ¹⁵ Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. ¹⁶ Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, that ye love one another.

Main Point: *We must actively love another as Christians and thereby demonstrate the same kind of sacrificial love which we were shown in Christ.*

Reasons to Love One Another

I. **Authority** — Our Lord Commands It

II. **Example** — Our Lord Demonstrates It

A. Jesus' love was *sacrificial* (cf. Rom. 5:6ff; 1 John 3:16)

B. Jesus' love was *supreme*

III. **Relationship** — Our Lord Expects It

A. Former Relationship: *slaves*

B. Current Relationship: *friends*

IV. **Sovereignty** — Our Lord Enables It

A. Chosen by God

B. Chosen to bear lasting fruit

C. Chosen to appeal to the Throne