

# Morning Thoughts: The Power of Love for Others

Have you ever thought of the power that God intended to be inside the simple acting of loving one another? Obviously it is the second greatest commandment of God, but why would it be if it were not intended for such a purpose? I can often brush it off thinking, if I just focus on loving God and spending time with God my love for the people around me will overflow from that love for God. However, we are not naturally spiritual enough to accomplish this without much thought and effort put in, even though the closer to God you are will help. To truly experience the power of love for one another that God has intended, we need to understand God's direction and the importance he has put on it. We are going to dive into why loving one another is so essential and how God expects us to experience the power of love for one another.

## **True Love (John 13:33-35)**

Jesus is about to face his death at this point and one of the greatest messages he wanted to get across to his disciples was this: love one another.

## **James Burton Coffman quotes:**

If this commandment had been merely a restatement of the Mosaic principle of loving one's neighbor as himself, it would not have been new. The newness of it is implicit in the words, 'even as I have loved you.' As Reynolds states it:

So a new type of love is given, as the Greek expositors generally have urged. There is a deeper intensity in this love than can be found in Moses' 'Love thy neighbor as thyself.' In that commandment which embraces the whole law, self-love is assumed and made the standard for the love of neighbor. The new commandment, on the other hand, is based on a new principle, measured by a higher standard than love of self. This is based on Christ's love, which was self-abandoning and self-sacrificing love.

**Q:** How is Jesus' love for people an upward calling from how you love others as yourself?

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## The Power to Change Lives (John 21:15-17)

### James Burton Coffman quotes:

The big point of the whole episode would appear to be the threefold affirmation of Peter's love, contrasting with his triple denial. Grievous as this was for Peter; it wiped out the guilt of his denials; and the Savior's total forgiveness is implicit in the threefold charge to care for the church Jesus came to establish. The external situation associated with this triple confession of love inevitably called to mind the denials.

The Gospel is infinitely richer for this triple confession of Peter's love of Jesus. It explains why Peter was at his usual place in the lead on Pentecost; and it also makes it impossible to assert (intelligently) that this Gospel was written to downgrade Peter, as some affirmed. The image of Peter that emerges in John is even higher than that in the synoptics.

Jesus' love and affirmation of that love allowed Peter to become one of the pillars of the faith that the 1st century church was built upon. Jesus could have taught Peter through rebuke, through showing him what it felt like to be denied but instead he reinstated him in love giving him the responsibility he knew Peter could hold. He forgave quickly and did not let Peter's denial, only days before this, change his vision for him. In doing so, Peter was no longer the coward that we see him as before Jesus' crucifixion but became a man that led the church boldly and with faith. Jesus' love for Peter changed every part of him and that same love can have equal amount of power in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

**Q:** Who is someone in your life that you need to reinstate your love and how will you do so this week?

**Q:** Are you experiencing power through your love for others in your life? What will you do to change this?

God has shown us the power that love can have on people through the example of his Son. Jesus sacrificed his energy, time, pride, and life so that those around him could experience this power the change. Let us follow his example and truly experience this love that will change the lives of those around us as well as our own.

### Focus for the Day:

Take some time and examine your love for others and pray about how you can change in this area