



A New Commandment

By Bryan Trotter on September 30, 2021

TODAY'S READING: John 13

The year was 1967 and a new song was quickly charting at number one in major music markets around the world. The chorus of the song contains five simple words “All You Need is Love” penned by John Lennon and Paul McCartney. I have heard the song cited in many sermons. Some pastors say you need more than love. Other pastors agree with the simple message of the chorus. Either way, Lennon and McCartney’s underlying current of a desire for a utopian society filled with love, peace and acceptance has never been realized. The truth is that people are flawed.

Upon reading today’s passage again, I discovered something new. I love that about God’s Word. No matter how many times we read or study a passage, we can still glean new insights. Jesus and the disciples are gathered together for the Passover feast. After washing the disciples’ feet, Jesus gives them a new commandment about loving one another. Jesus tells them that the world will know we are his disciples by the way we love one another. Powerful words! Now, let’s look at the context of Jesus’ words. His new commandment is sandwiched between acknowledging His betrayal by Judas and His denial by Peter. Jesus was demonstrating His new commandment in that moment towards these disciples.

There will always be people in your life who are hard to love. Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...for if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?” Unconditionally loving others is a conscious decision we make, which is personified through our actions and words. Even in the face of betrayal and denial, Jesus showed the same love to the disciples. If it would be helpful for you, go back and reread 1 Corinthians 13 to see how love is defined.

Spend some time in prayer today reflecting on God’s love for you and how you are loving others who are difficult to love.

TOMORROW'S READING: John 14

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