

## JESUS SAID

"LOVE ONE ANOTHER.  
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, SO YOU  
MUST LOVE ONE ANOTHER."



**HARD**



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Jesus's command is this, 'Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another'.

Who can argue with love? So deeply is the goodness and rightness of love built into our psyche and nature that it's like North on a compass. We know if we want to travel in the right direction in life then in our heart of hearts, love is the right course.

But knowing love is good and right doesn't mean we love often and well. All of us struggle at times to understand love and to know what it should look like. Who should I love? My, 'always happy to see me' dog with the soulful, non-judging eyes and wagging tail? Or that close friend who really understands me? Or even myself? It's possible to convince ourselves that our obligation to love has been satisfied because we're busy and well-connected in our community. But Jesus's command to love comes with unsettling fine print. He says this:

"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same."

The point is that some love is harder than other kinds. It's easy to love those who love us back but

really hard to love those who don't. The hardest love of all is to give what's yours to people who are difficult and ungrateful.

Which brings us back to the fine print - the really unsettling fine print. It's in Jesus's original command. He says that we should love 'as I have loved you'. This is so hard that it's close to impossible. You see Jesus loved awful and thankless people like you and me by going to the cross and dying to pay for our sin. He laid his life down for the arrogant and selfish people of this world who couldn't care less about him. He gave his life to free them from the judgment of God.

Will you spend some time today thinking about this amazing love. And whether the love you give is ever difficult or costly... or directed to people who aren't easy to love.

Prayer Dear God, please help me to love others like Jesus loved.

Verse "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."  
John 13:34