

HOW HE LOVES ME

By Rev. Will Nelken

Presented at Trinity Community Church, San Rafael, California, on Sunday, September 23, 2018

As promised, I will continue what I began last Sunday, offering practical instruction for loving others as Jesus has loved us.

On the same night that He offered His disciples a New Covenant (“in My blood”), He also offered them a New Commandment—HIS commandment.

John 13:34; NJB “I give you a new commandment: love one another; you must love one another just as I have loved you. ³⁵ It is by your love for one another, that everyone will recognize you as My disciples.”

John 15:12; NJB “This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. ¹³ No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.”

John, even in his later years, was so emphatic about this that, when he visited churches and was urged to share a word with the congregation, he would slowly rise to his feet, to say only these words, “My children, love one another.”

And why not? It was the command of the Lord Jesus. It was the command of the New Covenant. Everything else required of us hangs on this single pin.

And, as Jesus said, it was the acid test of our Christian testimony. It is how others will recognize us as disciples of Jesus.

If we are to do this—to center our thoughts, words, and deeds on this command—then I must ask you this question: *How has Jesus loved you?*

Jesus is our Forgiver. His death on the cross was the ransom for our souls, to remove everything that naturally stood or would stand between us and God. Every wall, every barrier, He crushed, and gave us free access to the Father’s throne of grace.

Therefore, we, in turn, should forgive others as freely as we have been forgiven. It’s the very thing Jesus taught us to pray, “Forgive us for offending You, as we forgive those who offend us.”

Jesus is our Comforter. No matter what our circumstances or distress, even those caused by us (!), Jesus has promised to be with us. His presence brings us comfort and assures us that we are loved and cared for and will recover.