

Let us Return to the Lord : **The Life of Love**



1. Praise

“In One Fraternal Bond of Love” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5L6QIAH3L4>

“Love Never Fails” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdFH0iSBU9I>

2. Prayer

3. Scripture Reading

 John 13:34-35

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

4. Sharing

Was there anyone or any event that led you to experience the love of God before?

5. The Discipline of Love

“The knowledge that God has loved me beyond all limits will compel me to go into the world to love others in the same way. I may get irritated because I have to live with an unusually difficult person. But just think how disagreeable I have been with God! Am I prepared to be identified so closely with the Lord Jesus that His life and His sweetness will be continually poured out through Me? Neither natural love nor God’s divine love will remain and grow in me unless it is nurtured. Love is spontaneous, but it has to be maintained through discipline.” (Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest* - ‘Love One Another’)

Even though we don’t deserve to be loved, God still loves us. The more we realize this, the more we are able to love even the unlovable with the love of Christ. The essence of the Christian faith is love that is not based on ordinary instinct but based on the highest form of sacrificial love called agape. Therefore, we must love through the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ, which God has shown us first. And the way we love one another will not only reveal Jesus to ourselves, but also to the world outside our walls.

6. Background

John 13 can be seen as a summary of the latter half of the book where it talks about how Jesus will receive glory through the cross. Jesus shows to the disciples, through washing their feet and His death on the cross, that Christians are called to live out the life of love. The passage is on the Last Supper in the Upper Room on the Thursday night of the Passion Week where Jesus washes the feet of the disciples. It is here that Jesus alludes to His resurrection and ascension to the Eleven right after Judas Iscariot betrays Jesus and leaves. It is also here that Jesus gives His farewell message of the “new commandment of love” as the essence of the Christian life in this world from the moment of His ascension until the Second Coming.

7. Into the Scripture

- 1) Following Judas's betrayal, what was the new commandment that Jesus gave after He washed the feet of the disciples? (v.34)
- 2) What happens when the disciples love one another? (v.35)
- 3) What is the meaning of the new commandment that Jesus gave? (v.34; 1 John 2:7-11)
- 4) Why would the people in this world see that we are truly Jesus's disciples when we love one another?

8. Into Life

- 1) Can you think of anyone you can begin to love as you reflect on this new commandment? What could you do in order to practice the life of love for that person?
- 2) What are some things that your Small Group (or yourself) could do to reach out and practice the new commandment of love to unbelievers and the local communities?

Pray together

1. Help us to love one another in our families, workplaces, and the church community through the agape of love of Jesus Christ.
2. Help us as Chodae Community Church to live out the love of Christ and to become a missional Church that shines the love of God. Be with our missionaries and bless the communities in which they live and serve.