

**Victoria Fellowship Church**  
**International & Interdenominational**  
**Bible Study Worksheet – December 26, 2021**

**Theme: Love: A More Excellent Way**

**Topic: Love one another**

**Main Text:** John 15:9-17

**Key verse:** John 13:34 – *‘A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another’* (NIV)

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**INTRODUCTION:** In John 13:34 Jesus commanded His followers to “*love one another.*” And He said it was a new command. Then He added, “*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another*” (verse 35). The “one another” in these verses is a reference to fellow believers. A distinguishing mark of being a follower of Christ is a deep, sincere love for brothers and sisters in Christ. The apostle John reminds us of this fact elsewhere: “*He has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister*” (1 John 4:21). In giving this command, Jesus did something the world had never seen before—He created a group identified by one thing: love. Tribe, race, gender, mother tongue, or any other shared interests, did not matter. Followers of Christ are to be identified simply by their love for one another.

**1. (a) Given that love is a major theme in the Bible, why do you think Jesus considered this command to love one another a new one? See 1 Corinthians 13:1-3; 1 John 4:20-21. (b) If someone in authority commands you to do something, they tell you that you must do it. What does this say about the need for believers to love one another? (c) in the light of 1 John 3:14, how seriously do you think believers in VFC are taking this instruction? Give example.**

Jesus’ commandment that we love one another is new not just because it commands love, but that it should be done *‘as I have loved you’*. Consequently, Jesus’ love for us is to be the guide for us as we seek to obey this command to love one another. He is also the yardstick with which to measure how we are doing in obedience to this command. So, how does Jesus love?

**2. Read Mark 16:7; John 13:1; 15:12-13; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 4:32 (a) What are some of the ways Jesus showed us how to love? (b) What difference would it have made had Jesus not spelt out how this loving one another should look like? (c) Compare love as Christ loved us with what obtains in VFC today. What are some other practical ways we can better love one another in VFC?**

The ultimate expression of Christ’s amazing love for us is His death on the cross, burial, and bodily resurrection (1 John 4:9–10). And we all would love to love like Christ, even to the point of death. Apostle Peter did. In John 13:37b, Apostle Peter said, “*But why can’t I come now, Lord? ... I’m ready to die for you.*” But before the rooster crowed a few hours later, Peter had denied Jesus several times! And on the night Jesus was arrested, all the disciples deserted Jesus, meanwhile, their lives were not even under any threat at the time. So, to love one another as Christ loves us is not going to be easy. Lest the disciples are discouraged by the enormity of this command, Jesus said, “*You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.*” (John 15:16 NLT)

**3. (a) What secrets to loving one another does Jesus reveal in John 15:9-10? (b) The ability to love like Jesus comes from God. What role, do you think this ‘abiding in Christ’s love’ plays in helping us love one another? (c) If the fruit Jesus refers to in John 15:16 is that of love for one another, what can we do to bear more of this fruit?**

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**Prayer:** *Dear God, thank You that You are a loving, and gracious Father. Thank You for reminding us today that the most significant thing we can do in this life is simply to love You and to love one another. Help us to do this as we ought to, in Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.*