“Love One Another, Just as I Have Loved You”

Intro: It is in the context of __________ in Him, His word in us, and us in His __________ that we approach our text of study this Lord’s Day. With the Lord having said, “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love” we understand then that ____________ to His word is the necessary response of those who truly abide in Him.

I. Jesus said, verse 12, “This is My commandment, that you __________ ____________, just as I have loved you.”

A. Jesus gave a new commandment (cf. 13:34) whereby His followers are not to merely __________ one another as they loved themselves but infinitely ____________, they are to love one another ___ ___________ has loved them!

B. ___ ___ _________ in Christ, His word in us, and us in His love then ___ _________ be diligent to _________ His Word, obeying His commands, loving one another as He has loved us.

II. Jesus went on to express ______ _________ His _________ for us is and therefore, how great our love for one another is to be.

A. There is no greater love than this: that one ______ _________ his ______ for his friends.

1. Family of God, here is the love of Christ, the depth and purity of His love made manifest: _____ _________ laid down (_______) His life for us! And greater love has no one than this: that he lay down his life for his friends!

2. It is in this, Christ’s self-sacrificing, __________-__________ giving of Himself that we find how we are to love one another. Our love for each other is to be a love of preference whereby we prefer one another over ourselves, willingly and _________ denying ourselves, seeking the good of the other even at great cost to us, as it were, freely ____________ _____ _________ on the line for the good of the other.

B. Jesus said, “You are My friends, ___ _______ ___ what I command you.” This is a most beautiful promise of assurance and affirmation for we know that if ____ do what our Lord commands us that we ______ _______ _____________! And He laid down His life for His friends!

C. In loving kindness the Lord Jesus does ______ call His disciples __________, ______ _________.

1. And that Jesus calls His disciples friends is proven and made evident in the fact that He _____________ in them, making known to them all that the Father had spoken to Him. And so has He confided ___ ____ for we have the ___________ __________ of God.
2. Beloved, in calling those who obey Him friends we find that Christ is not content to have mere servile obedience, but He desires relationship that results in ______________ as the expression of our love. Blessed thought: Jesus calls us friend! What divine privilege is this! Let us __________ our Lord and Master for He calls us His friend!

D. This is the love of Christ for us: _____ ________ __________!

1. William Hendriksen writes, "... the ______________ of which the present passage speaks is not that unto office but that which pertains to every Christian. All believers are chosen out of the world to bear fruit. Though this is an act which takes place in time, it has its basis in election ‘____________ the foundation of ___ ________’ (Eph. 1:4; cf. John 17:24).

2. In choosing His ______________ He appoints them that they should go and __________ __________.

   a. Clearly the context has it that the fruit the Lord has concerned Himself with, that we should bear, is love – _________ one for another! And, when we love one another we ________ ________________ the lost!

3. If in all truth as we abide in Christ, we will align our requests with His will, _______ _______ _________ our request and ______ ______ ________ one another even as Christ has loved us, and by our love one for another the world will know that we are His disciples!

Finally then: Can He call you His friend? Do you obey Him? ______ ______ ________ your brothers and sisters in Christ as He has loved you and commanded you to?

Our love, like His love for us, my beloved family, must be a love of the will, of our will subjected to His will as He works through us, us in Him and He in us. We must love as He has loved us, with an ______________ love that loves despite the worthiness of the object of such love. As He chose us, so must we obediently ______________ __________ one another! And so will we know that He calls us friend!

And as we fall short in our obedience, there is a solution: Ask and it shall be given! If we ______ of the Father to grant it that we should love one another even as Christ has loved us, _______ _______ grant it! And His love will abound amongst us. And as we love one another as Christ has loved us, so will the world will know that we are truly His disciples – all to the glory of God! ______________ ___________!

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