

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 183. Love one another



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** John 15:15-17

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

**LOOKING FURTHER:** John 3:16; 1 John 3:23; John 13:34; Luke 23:34

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

Last month, we celebrated Easter - the ultimate demonstration of God's love for us. At the Last Supper, after Judas had left to betray Him, Jesus gave His disciples a new commandment, 'Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another' (John 13:34).

In 1965, a song was released called 'What the world needs now is love sweet love,' with words by Hal David, music by Bert Bacharach and sung by Jackie DeShannon. I know, I was a teenager then!

The same is still true, right up to the present day. We all need to be loved, valued and appreciated. Society today reflects the fact that love is missing in so many contexts.

Jesus did not just think that loving others was a good idea or that it might help others. He actually commanded that we do this (v17). Why? Because as Christians we must do for others what Jesus has done for us. Jesus demonstrated this throughout His life. He loved everyone whom He came across, even those who crucified Him. We see this when He said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing' (Luke 23:34).

It is important that we all understand that God loves all of mankind. We can be forgiven and be known as a friend of Jesus Himself. Jesus came 'not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many' (Matthew 20:28). We should do the same.

What a privilege to be loved by God, to be forgiven and know His forgiveness. We have a choice to make; will we respond to God's love but also be loving? This will produce a fruitful outcome, a harvest of joy, wellbeing and peace. What choice are you going to make today?

### Reflections:

- How do you define the word 'love' and what does it mean to you?
- Even in our darkest moments, we can know that we are loved by God, no matter where we are or what we have done. Thank God for His amazing love.
- Who can you share God's love with and how could you demonstrate it during this coming week?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.

**LOVE**



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

