

## Serve

John 13:12-17 *"12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."*

## Receive

John 13:20 *"20 Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."*

## Love

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."*

## Definition of Love:

**AGAPE:** Agape love is the spirit which says: "No matter what any man does to me, I will never seek to do harm to him; I will never set out for revenge; I will always seek nothing but his highest good. 'That is to say, Christian love, agape, is unconquerable benevolence, invincible good will.'" It is a "principle by which we deliberately live.... it is a deliberate principle of the mind and a deliberate conquest and achievement of the will.... It is not simply a wave of emotion: it is a conviction of the mind issuing from a deliberate achievement and conquest and victory of the will." (Barclay, Dictionary of New Testament Words, pp.21-23).

Love how Jesus loved

## Loving obedience

John 14:15-21 **“15** *“If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”*

## At Peace

John 14:25-27 **25** *“All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

## Abiding

John 15:4-8 **4** *Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5* *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”*

## Endings Precede New Beginnings

John 16:7 **7** *But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.”*

## Unity

John 17:20-23 **20** *“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”*

Ephesians 3:14-21 **14** *For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may **strengthen you with power through his Spirit** in your inner being, 17 so that*

**Christ may dwell in your hearts** through faith. And I pray that you, **being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power**, together with all the Lord's holy people, to **grasp** how wide and long and high and deep **is the love of Christ, 19** and to **know this love that surpasses knowledge**—that you may be **filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.**

**20** Now to him who is able to do **immeasurably more** than all we **ask** or **imagine**, according to his power that is at work within us, **21 to him be glory in the church** and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.”

Revelation 2:1-7

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. **2** I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. **3** You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

**4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. 5**

**Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.** If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. **6** But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

**7 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.** To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.