

Practicing “New” Love

- **Day One** Read John 15:1-14

Think about a grape vine. What is the relationship between the vine, the branch, and the fruit? How is the branch involved in “fruit-production”? Now think about your relationship to Jesus. If he is the vine, you are the branch, and love is the fruit, how is this new love produced through your life? What practices can you develop to connect to and depend on the vine more effectively?

Pray – Ask God to teach you how you can “abide in Christ” more completely.

- **Day Two** Read Romans 5:6-10 and Matthew 5:43-48

Can you name any people in your sphere of influence with whom you might have an adversarial relationship? Someone who might dislike you? Someone you might dislike? Someone you consider undeserving, even “bad”? Picture what it would look like to pray for and to bless that person. Could you ever see yourself getting to that point?

Pray – Ask God to show you people he can use you to bless, especially those who seem “unblessable.”

- **Day Three** Read John 10:14-18 and Matthew 20:25-28

Most of us will probably not be called on to give our physical life and die for another person. But there are ways we can “die to ourselves” through service. We sacrifice some of what we have or what we want in order to help others. What are some of the ways you could practice the principle of “love dies” by giving up some of your personal desires for others? Who are the people God brings to mind to whom you could direct that service?

Pray – Ask God to show you ways you can serve others more effectively. Ask him to show you ways you can “give your life” for them.

New Life Lessons
January 17th-18th, 2015
Pastor Dave Vasquez

A New Love

New! #2

John 13:34; Matthew 5:43-48

John 13:34 (NIV) ³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Characteristics of new love

1. Love serves (John 13:1-17)

John 13:1-5 (NIV) ¹ It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love... ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

John 13:12-15 (NIV) ¹⁵ 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.

Matthew 20:25-28 (NIV) ²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

2. Love blesses (John 13:18-30)

John 13:21 (NIV) ²¹ After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me.”

Matthew 5:44 (KJV) ⁴⁴ But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.

Romans 5:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

3. Love dies (John 13:31-38)

John 13:33-38 (NIV) ³³ “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come... ³⁶ Simon Peter asked him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus replied, “Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.” ³⁷ Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” ³⁸ Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

John 10:14-18 (NIV) ¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep... ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

Philippians 2:5-8 (NIV) ⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

John 15:12-13 (NIV) ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

Source of new love

1. From the Father (John 14:1-14)

John 14:10-11 (NIV) ¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me...

1John 4:7-8 (NIV) ⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

2. Through the Spirit (John 14:15-31)

John 14:15-17 (NIV) ¹⁵ “If you love me, you will obey what I command. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth.

John 14:26 (NIV) ²⁶ But the Counselor, 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.”

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV) ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. 1 Corinthians 13:4ff

3. In the Son (John 15:1-17)

John 15:4-5 (NIV) ⁴ Remain in me, and I will 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 a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:9-13 (NIV) ⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.