

Sunday, September 3, 2023
Loving God's Children Like Jesus Did
Helping Our Brethren Grow "in Christ"

The New Commandment

"³⁴ I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35 John 15:12-17

- **Children of God are born and nurtured by the Spirit of God dwelling within them.** (John 3:2-8; Mat. 18:1-5; Gen. 1:26-27)
- **The Spirit is called "The Spirit of Truth" because His purpose is to help Children of God learn from Jesus.** (John 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-15)
- **The Teachings of Jesus are an essential need in order to help us grow as children of God.** (Mat. 28:18-20; John 8:31-32; 18:36-37)
- **Jesus' two most important teachings are:**

1) **Growing in our Relationship with God, as a Father.**

John 17:3; Mat.6:5-15

2) **Loving God's Children to the degree that Jesus did.**

How Did Jesus Love?

1. **Jesus Loved Children of God so much He died for them.**

John 10:11-17; 15:13 "Jesus is the Good Shepherd who ties for His sheep"

2. **Jesus died for God's children in order to liberate them from the consequences of their ungodlike and evil nature.**

Mat 26:26-39 "Jesus's shed blood provides forgiveness of sins"

3. **The most Christ-like thing we do in life is to habitually forgive with hope in another person's transformation.**

Matthew 18:21-35 "up to 70 times 7"

Jim Friesen's Counselling Advice

*Forgiveness is not a feeling, It is not reconciliation,
It is the decision not to retaliate.*

You may feel incomplete and awful about a person who hurt you, but that is a healing issue. If you want to retaliate, then it's a forgiveness issue. BEING LIKE JESUS IS ALWAYS FORGIVING

4. The second most Christ-like thing we do is serve people with a commitment to helping them grow "in Christ."

John 13:1-15 Our Goal is Bringing People to Christ's Work

1-5 *Jesus was concerned for immediate earthly needs.*

6-8 *But, Jesus was focused on the greatest need of people.*

9-11 *Jesus knew that forgiving people will not change their tendencies. Growth in Christ requires long term attention.*

Repentance, Confession, Thought Life, New Habits

12-15 *Jesus, our Teacher and Lord, illustrated the need to be involved in each other's lives on a meaningful level informed by understanding of Him.*

Serving Our Brethren Like Jesus Did

- **Jesus desired our liberation from the power of sin and darkness and worked to help us.**

We can tell people what Jesus has done for them!

- **Jesus forgave but understood it would not change people apart from the ongoing process of owning responsibility.**

We can encourage habitual confession.

We can encourage dependence on Jesus for transformation.