**John 15:12-13**

**5/8/19**

**Intro – I Hope That You Are Not Weary Of Talking About Love! John Takes Us Headlong, Once Again, Into This Great Subject, As He Records The Words Of Christ.**

**Eventually, We Must Conclude That Love Is The Foundation, Upon Which All The Doctrines Of God And Christianity Are Built.**

**Our Lesson Tonight, Only Strengthens This Truth.**

**1. V. 12a – Jesus Begins Verse 12 With This Statement:**

**(Slide 2)**

“This Is My Commandment.”

**2. Before We Delve Into What Comes Next, Let’s Review The Context, Which Brings Jesus To Tell Us What His Commandment Is. *(V. 10a)***

**3. In Verse 10, Jesus Said, “If You Keep My Commandments, Ye Shall Abide In My Love.” What Is The Question We Ought To Ask, In Regard To This Statement? (*What Are Christ’ Commandments*)**

**4. V. 12b - Jesus Formerly Spoke Of His “Commandments.” Now He Speaks Of His “Commandment.” He Reduces All The Commandments Into One, Simple, Law. What Is It?**

**5. No Amount Of Scripture Reading Or Bible Study Has Any Significance Without Applying The Word To Our *Everyday* Lives. It Is Not In *Knowing* The Word, Where We Fall Short – It Is In The *Doing*.**

**6. How Many Christians Do You Think Bathe Every Interaction With Other Believers In The Context Of Biblical Love?**

**7. There Will Always Be Christians, With Which We Connect More Than Others. Our Natural Personalities Will Always Draw Us Into Closer Friendship With People, Whose, Personalities Compliment Our Own.**

**However, That Is Very Different Than *Loathing The Mere Existence* Of Other’s Because Their Personalities Are Incompatible To Our Own (*Example*).**

**8. How Many Of You Recognize This Tool On The String?**

**(Slide 3 – *Plumb Line Photo*)**

**9. What Is The Purpose Of A Plumb Line?**

**(Slide 4)**

A Plumb Line Is A Weight Suspended From A String Used As A Vertical Reference Line To Ensure A Structure Is Centered.

**10. V. 12b – The End Of Verse 12 Is The Plumb Line, By Which Our Love For One Another Is Measured. What Is The Measure Of Our Love For Our Fellow Brothers And Sisters, In Christ?**

**11. Let’s Further Contextualize All That Jesus Is Saying In This Verse, By Looking At The *Granddaddy* Of All Passages On Love – I Cor. 13 (*Someone Read 1-3*)**

**12. (Slide 5)**

Re Text: I Cor. 13:1-3

“Paul Shows The Necessity Of Love To Make The Employment Of Spiritual Gifts Constructive.”

*The Moody Bible Commentary On I Corinthians 13:1-3*

**13. (Slide 6)**

The Greatest Of Our Gifts Are Rendered Ineffective, If They Are Not Exercised In Love!

**14. Let’s Look At One More Passage, Which Gives Us Practical Instruction On What The Love Of Christ Toward One Another, Looks Like. (*Ephesians 4:30-32 - NLT*)**

**15. Why Is This So Hard To Do?**

**16. V. 13 – (*Read)***

**17. According To Jesus, What Is The Greatest Expression Of Love One Person Can Demonstrate To Another?**

**18. How Often Do You Hear Of One Person Giving Their Life For Another Person? (*Rarely - Riley Howell, age 21*)**

**19. Most Of Us Will Never Be Called To Give Our Physical Life For Our Fellow-Christians. Yet, We Are Called To Offer Up The Sacrifice Of Kindness – Gentleness – Goodness – Forgiveness And Self-Control, Every Day!**

**20. Pay Attention To The Word “Man” In Verse 13. This Is “Man’s” Highest Expression Of Love: To Lay Down Their Life For A *Friend*. Yet, Christ’ Love Went Beyond This.**

**(Slide 7)**

Romans 5:8  
But God Commendeth His Love Toward Us, In That,

While We Were Yet Sinners, Christ Died For Us.