**Love One Another**

1John 4:11-12 – *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.*

From before the creation of the world, God is love. Love existed before any people were here to be loved. But doesn’t love require an object? For love to exist there must be someone to give and another to receive. Christians understand that the Father and Son have been bound together by the Spirit in love from before all worlds.

God’s love for us is the basis upon which we are exhorted to love each other. So, what is God’s love like? It is lavish, it is extravagant, it is passionate, it is wide open. He withholds nothing that serves our best interest. I mean, look at the world around you! Clearly, God gives with wild abandon. “But,” we say, “He can afford to give, it’s easy for Him.” Is that true? How many Son’s did He have? Was sacrificing Him easy?

We need to follow God’s example of loving others and become more generous givers. Furthermore, we need to do so with greater passion. I recently ran across this observation, “When the bland lead the bland, they will both fall into apathy.” The greatest problem with God’s people today is a lack of zeal. Peter exhorts us in this way, *“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart”* (1 Peter 1:22).

Here are a few ways you can show your love for your brother this week:

1. Call a friend you know to be having a difficult time and invite them to lunch.
2. Introduce yourself to a new member at church and find out if they have any needs as newcomers that you can meet.
3. Visit an elderly member who is confined to their home or nursing facility.
4. Write a check to someone that you know is having a financial struggle.
5. Let your children’s bible class teachers know that you appreciate the influence they are having in their lives.