Love each other deeply

Love is the supreme quality Jesus modeled for us, the new commandment that Christ gave His disciples, the main business of our fellowship, our response to God's love for us, and the proof of our discipleship.

"Deeply" underscores the fact that we need to go beyond the surface to know each other to the depths, and go beyond an artificially limited range of concern and involvement if we are to truly love each other.

1 Peter 4:8 | John 13:34-35 | Acts 2:44-45 | 1 Corinthians 12:26

Engage the world lovingly

We believe that the Church is not to be insular, but engage the world through evangelism, outreach, compassionate service, as well as through challenge and critique.

"Lovingly" expresses our conviction that engaging the world must be done with relevance, care, humility, and grateful regard for God's grace to us.

Matthew 16:18 | Matthew 25:40, 45 | 2 Corinthians 5:18-20
1 Corinthians 9:19-23 | 2 Corinthians 10:5 | Ephesians 5:11

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 all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

- Love one another (John 13:34)
- Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:5)
- Honor one another (Romans 12:10)
- Rejoice with one another (Romans 12:15)
- Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
- Carry one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32)
- Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Offer hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
- Pray for one another (James 5:16)

Matt 9:35-38

35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Discussion Questions

- Share a time when you received care from others or an incident in which you grew in your capacity to love others.
- Has there been a time when you saw the world as full of people who are "harassed and helpless"? Have you ever felt that way?
- What do all the "one another" passages tell us about the essential nature of a church?

Notes: