



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Loving Your Oikos into Heaven

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THEME We Share Christ

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

What is love? And what does it mean to each of us?

Romantic love is not sustainable; filial love in friendship can have fallouts; the only perfect love is 'agape':

"I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too are to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have love and unselfish concern for one another." (John 13:34-35)

This "new (and 11th) command" only appears 4 times in the Bible, mentioned by Apostle John (1 Jn 2:7, 8; 2 Jn 1:5). Commands are not a suggestion/proposal/recommendation; they are meant to be obeyed. Without this love, the Gospel cannot be preached to the ends of the earth.

HOW TO LOVE OUR OIKOS INTO HEAVEN

We can do great things for God if we do great things for one another (Col 3:12-17). This is achievable only through humility and starts with our *oikos* (this is the ancient Greek word for family and includes our own household, extended family, family of believers in and outside church).

We are called to love (1 Jn 4:11) with:

1. Sacrificial Love (Jn 13:34b)

This was demonstrated by the church in Jerusalem (Act 2:44-45) and the churches in Macedonia (2 Cor 8:1-5). It is especially needed for those who are unlovable and hard to love.

2. Visible Love (Jn 13:35)

Going beyond the four walls of church and extending beyond the few hours of church service, this is love that can be observed by the world (1 Jn 4:19-21). Anyone who loves God must love their brother and sister.

(2 Cor 5:18-20; Act 13:47) If we show both sacrificial and visible love to our Oikos, they will be able to receive the Gospel (1 Pet 3:15; Rom 10:12-15).

CONCLUSION

Loving one another is about cultivating relationships by performing genuine acts of care and kindness through servanthood (Mk 10:43-45). Our potential impact on our Oikos is encapsulated in the poem “Because You Passed My Way” by Eleanor Taylor Rhodes in *Gospel Herald*:

My load's a little lighter now because you passed my way
The sun's a little brighter and the clouds have passed away
I've found my Saviour nearer and each day He grows still dearer
And I'm on my way to Glory because you passed my way
I was lost and no one seemed to care until you passed my way
You saw me and led me to Christ – Oh, what a happy day
Now I'm living all for Jesus and with Him I'll be someday
For I found a new beginning because you passed my way
And when in realms of glory I see His precious face
And hear the angel voices within the heavenly place
I'll remember that sinner who once had gone astray
Might not be there in Glory had you not passed my way.

QUESTIONS

1. Who are your Oikos? In 2 minutes, list as many people as possible in your Oikos list by name (that you call them). The person with the longest list wins!

2. From your list, identify 2-3 persons that God is laying on your heart to reach out to in love.

3. How can you (better/further) demonstrate sacrificial love and visible love to the Oikos identified in Q.2?