NEW YEAR NEW NORMAL NEW HEART NEW COMMANDMENT NEW HOPE NEW AND LIVING WAY

PS EDRIC SNG

# MARANATHA!

### JOHN 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this will all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

# In the OT, the distinguishing mark of the <u>People of God</u> was the <u>Presence of God</u>:

"How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" EXODUS 33:16 Jesus explains the purpose of the Presence of God. It's not just for us, but so others can witness His Glory.

Based on John 13:34-35, the distinguishing mark, hallmark or calling card of a Christian and the Church should be a godly love that is evident to all men,

even (especially!) to those not in church.

Without love (received from God, expressed to men), we are just noise – clanging cymbals, resounding gongs. Without love, we are nothing (1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-3).

# That's the model answer. But what is the *real* distinguishing mark of the Church today?

### THAT WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS HE HAS LOVED US

66

# HAVE WE?

### **BY THIS (LOVE) WILL ALL MEN KNOW YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES**

66

# **DO THEY?**

# DO ALL MEN KNOW WE ARE HIS DISCIPLES?

First, the positive stuff ...

Charity work	Good morals	
In-demand schools	Good education	
Integrity at work	Family-focused	
Materially blessed	Nice buildings!	

### **DO ALL MEN KNOW WE ARE HIS DISCIPLES?** *"Things non-Christians think about Christians"*

Thom Rainer • Seven Common Comments Non-Christians Make about Christians • churchanswers.com/blog/seven\_common\_comments\_non-christians\_make\_about\_christians/

"Christians are <u>against</u> more things than they are <u>for</u>."

"I don't see a difference in the way Christians live compared to others."

"Some Christians like to act like they have no problems."

Hypocrites	Judgmental	Se	Self-righteous		Argumentative	
Not really inte	rested in othe	ers	Friendship or	nly with an	agenda	
Out of touch	Ignorant	Living	Living in ivory towers		Why so rich?	
Out to guilt-tri	ip everyone el	se	Imposing the	ir views	Cults!	

### **DO ALL MEN KNOW WE ARE HIS DISCIPLES?**

1. Only 21% Of Non-Christian People Have A Positive Perception Of The Local Church



One of the sharpest differences in this round of research is that 80% of practicing Christians have a positive view of the church. Only 21% of non-Christians think of the church in a positive way. CAREY NIEUWHOF

Barna Cities research 2021, with graphics taken from careynieuwhof.com/the-self-awareness-gap-what-non-christian-people-really-think-about-the-church/

### **DO ALL MEN KNOW WE ARE HIS DISCIPLES?**



### DO ALL MEN KNOW WE ARE HIS DISCIPLES? This is what we see from Christians on Christian sites ...

Ca

Can we not have to shake hands in church forever?

Shaking hands just to bless others is just stupid.

2 w Like Reply

#### 19639635

Lol all the rush to give fanciful talks of grace and forgiveness and nothing about reckoning. That's what's wrong with modern megachurches. Someone who had betrayed his wife, his church, his parish is heading straight down the HIGHWAY TO HELL!!!



Science Street

God 's covenant w us is always everlasting so we can 100 % trust Him wholeheartedly. Unlike secular people esp. papies can never be trusted but also cruel intending to milk us dry of all our resourses on gst , levies on utilities, food , petrol, trsnsportation etc yet they had millions for themselves & the poor & jobless ," how to get the \$\$ to pay all these ? " I thought former chief ministerbLim Yew Hock was bad. But this IhI is worst more \$\$ face, merciless to citizens, I believe no good ending will come 2 him or his descendants beacause the heavens are looking at tnem when will they stop all these atrocities and be truly honest, justv& merciful . As they sow evil they will sure reap more evil unto themselves and fown the line . Even if they dont believe in a loving & caring God, they should go down to Haw Par Villa to see clearly for the display of hell 's countless gates where punishment were judged on all evil mem & women. How can "Bad Trees " bear good fruits ! NEVER

Like · Reply · 10m

### **DO ALL MEN KNOW WE ARE HIS DISCIPLES?** *What do our neighbours in Bedok-Tampines think of us?*





### **DO ALL MEN KNOW WE ARE HIS DISCIPLES?**



JOHN 13:34-35 NIV (NEGATIVELY INVERTED VERSION) A new commandment I gave unto you. Yet you do not love one another as I have loved you :( By this, how will all men know that you are my disciples? If you don't have love for one another?

#### Love one another



### have loved you

It's not the commandment to love that was new. What was new is loving <u>as Jesus did</u>. SO HOW DID JESUS LOVE HIS DISCIPLES?

### **JOHN 13:1**

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

### **PROVERBS 17:17**

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

### **1 CORINTHIANS 13:7**

Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

## WHAT WOULD THIS LOOK LIKE?

- "She's too difficult to deal with. I'm done with her."
- + "It must be difficult for her, dealing with all her baggage, always facing rejection. I'll journey with her."
- "He disappointed me. Never again."

+ "I disappoint God all the time. Yet He's never given up on me. Help me show more grace, Lord!"

# WHAT WOULD THIS LOOK LIKE? Not loving only where it's convenient but loving where it's <u>crucial</u>.

Not touch-and-go love but transformational love!

#### **JOHN 13:3-9**

Jesus got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realise now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

#### **JOHN 13:3-9**

"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

#### THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER WITH A LOVE THAT IS MEEK

MATTHEW 5:5 Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

MATTHEW 23:11 The greatest among you shall be your servant.

### WHAT WOULD THIS LOOK LIKE?

- A posture that says, "Do you know who I am?"

+ A posture that says, "I know who I am ... a sinner saved by grace, serving only by His grace."

Actions that suggest, "These things are beneath me."
+ Actions that suggest, "No one is beneath me."

#### THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER WITH A LOVE THAT IS MEEK

### WHAT WOULD THIS LOOK LIKE?

Not a taught humility but <u>true</u> humility!

Not about winning – you're wrong, I'm right but about serving – <u>let's do what's right</u>.

### JOHN 13:12-17

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them.

"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet."

### **JOHN 13:12-17**

"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

"Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

### 1 JOHN 3:16-18

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

### WHAT WOULD THIS LOOK LIKE?

- Love as a noun something you have or don't have
- + Love as a verb something you choose to do
- Focusing on what we can get from others
- + Focusing on what we can give to/do for others

WHAT WOULD THIS LOOK LIKE?

Not "I tell, you do" but "I teach, <u>WE</u> do"

Not merely something we read/know about but actually something we <u>live out</u>!

#### THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER WITH A LOVE THAT <u>HATES DIVISION</u>

### JOHN 13:2, 21

The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

... Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me."

### THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER WITH A LOVE THAT HATES DIVISION

#### **PROVERBS 6:19**

(An abomination to the Lord is ...) One who sows discord among brethren.

#### **MATTHEW 3:24-25**

If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.

### THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER WITH A LOVE THAT <u>HATES DIVISION</u>

### WHAT WOULD THIS LOOK LIKE?

- A church marked by division
- + A church grieved by division
- A church that thinks "Our theology is better than theirs"
- + A church that knows "Good theology calls us to love without condemnation, comparison, competition, offence"

### THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER WITH A LOVE THAT <u>HATES DIVISION</u>

### WHAT WOULD THIS LOOK LIKE?

Not a superficial love but a <u>spiritual</u> love!

Not a functional love but a <u>fundamental</u> love!

EG YOUTUBE HATE • 40 YEARS RECONCILIATION

#### LOVING ONE ANOTHER IS A <u>COMMANDMENT</u> AND A <u>GIFT</u>!

### JOHN 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this will all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

### LOVING ONE ANOTHER IS A <u>COMMANDMENT</u> AND A <u>GIFT</u>!





### Loving unity is not optional. It is essential.

Loving unity is us showing the world a manifest expression of the Gospel of Reconciliation. If we really care about evangelism, Jesus says this is more important/effective than any outreach strategy or campaign: That we love one another. LOVE AS WITNESS! What would it take for the world to look at us – Christians and the Church – and have their first thought be: If that's what the love of God looks like, count me in! LOVE AS WITNESS!

## Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14

### JOHN 13:36-38

Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."

Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you."

Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!"

# WILL YOU LAY DOWN YOUR LIFE FOR JESUS?

As we follow His example, in our "death", it is <u>we who are made new</u>. Through the grace and goodness we show to one another and others – that's how those around us will <u>witness the grace and goodness of God</u>.