



Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

November 2015

One of the greatest portions of God's Word in my mind is that which depicts Jesus loving His disciples in spite of the fact that He knew all they would do.

Jesus said this, *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."* **John 13:34-35**

When you look back at the events preceding this passage, you see that Jesus had humbled Himself in washing the disciples' feet.

Charles Ryrie said this, "This dramatic scene of the foot-washing is an acted parable, a lesson in humility, and a vivid portrayal of Christ's self-humiliation."

So, this was the scene, the atmosphere, when Jesus said, *"... love one another, even as I have loved you."*

And one of these disciples was Judas, the one who would betray Him, and Peter, the one who would deny Him publicly three times. Jesus knew they eventually would all leave Him. Remember, that later in the Garden of Gethsemane, the disciples ran from Him.

Then all the disciples left Him and fled. *"But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.' Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled."* **Matthew 26:56**

But, John said in **John 13:1** *"... having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end."*

My friend, how do you explain this apart from the highest form of love, God's own love? What does this really have to do with us today? Think about it, this love, according to the Bible is in you and me.

Romans 5:5 – *"... and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."*

This love, my friend, gives us a soul winner's heart. It is this love that gives us the disciple maker's heart. It is this love that constrains us to love God and serve God with all of our heart, soul and mind.



Chris Hodges
President & CEO

What comes to your mind when you think of love? Are your first thoughts of God? We should love God supremely. Everything we have is a gift from God. Our very lives are an expression of His divine Agape love. My friends, we are nothing apart from Him, and we have everything because of Him.

1 John 4:7-8 – *“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”*

This love motivates us here at Abiding Above Ministries to *share the gospel with every person, to encourage spiritual growth in every believer, by the power of the Holy Spirit and to the glory of God.*

My friends, we are closing in on the end of the year, and it has been a very busy year. Here at Abiding Above Ministries, we have had tremendous opportunities to share the Gospel with those who are lost and to disciple many individuals in who they are in Christ, and to serve others. There are many needs today and we go wherever God leads us. This is the work of ministry!

I know, and do not take for granted, that this ministry exists because of you and your generous gifts. I believe you give from your heart and that your love for us is Agape love. I am truly humbled by you and your generosity.

My friends, this year has been met with financial challenges for us in our radio ministry expenses, Bible lesson material expenses that we distribute around the world and in our basic day-to-day ministry expenses. We need your help to finish strong in 2015. Please be in prayer and consider us in your end-of-year giving in the months of November and December.

You are our greatest blessing and I am so grateful for your partnership with us here at Abiding Above Ministries. Thank you!

Abiding above,



President
Abiding Above Ministries
Colossians 3:1-3