



- If you want to thrive in life, **hang out** with Jesus.

#### One of the reasons for this letter:

- Intimacy with **Jesus** will lead us to intimacy with **others**.

7 Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment—to love one another—is the same message you heard before. 1 John 2:7 (NLT)

#### What John is saying is:

- We are not living in the light when what we **know** to be true is no longer expressed in what we **do**.
- The way we deal with the darkness is by **renewing** our commitment to the **light**.

8 Yet it is always new, and works for you just as it did for Christ; and as we obey this commandment, to love one another, the darkness in our lives disappears and the new light of life in Christ shines in. 1 John 2:8 (TLB)

34 So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. John 13:34 (NLT)

#### The new commandment that Jesus gave was:

- Jesus said, **love** like me.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35 (NLT)

- Loving like Jesus is living in the **light**.

9 If anyone claims, "I am living in the light," but hates a fellow believer, that person is still living in darkness. 10 Anyone who loves a fellow believer is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble. 11 But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness. 1 John 2:9-11 (NLT)

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. John 13:1 (NLT)

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. John 13:14-15 (NIV)

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. John 13:34 (NLT)

#### Jesus modeled:

- A Love that overlooks the **faults** of others.

<sup>9</sup> Whoever would foster love covers over an offense.... Proverbs 17:9 (NIV)

12 Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses. Proverbs 10:12 (ESV)  
 ...continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8 (NLT)

- A love that is **selfless** and sacrificial.

God generated Love is always directed to others for the **benefit** of others.

- A love that **forgives**.

<sup>13</sup> Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Colossians 3:13 (NLT)

Forgiveness is giving **others** what **God** has given you.

Forgiveness doesn't just flow **to** us;  
 forgiveness flows **through** us!

...as we obey this commandment, to love one another, the darkness in our lives disappears and the new light of life in Christ shines in. 1 John 2:8 (TLB)

- Loving like Jesus keeps us from **stumbling** in the darkness.

11 But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness. 1 John 2:11 (NLT)

#### Application steps:

- Is **selfishness** keeping me from loving someone I need to love?
- Are there **faults** in others I need to overlook?
- Is there someone I need to **forgive**?



**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE  
 IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

#### Questions for Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Would you agree that thriving in our relationship with Jesus requires that we hang out with Jesus?
- Why does intimacy with Jesus lead us to intimacy with others?
- When Jesus said "love like me", why was that so shocking for the disciples? Do you think it's equally difficult for us to accept? Explain.
- Why is it essential for us to love like Jesus?
- How did Jesus overlook the faults in his disciples when he loved them? What does it mean for us to overlook the faults in others?
- How was Jesus' love selfless and sacrificial? How can our love be selfless and sacrificial?
- Why is forgiveness extended to others important to the life of a Christ follower?
- How does love keep us from stumbling in the darkness?
- How are you doing with the application steps?

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