

Bible Lessons on the number ONE

Love ONE Another

by Mary Beth Wine

©December 2022

Dedicated to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit who ARE Love

Love ONE Another as I have loved you. John 13:34

John 13:34
A new commandment I
give to you, that you love
one another, even as I
have loved you...

How did Jesus love us?

#1.

Phil 2:7-8 tells us that "Being in the form of God he humbled (emptied) himself and became a bondservant... being made in the likeness of men." He didn't just humble himself to become a man, but to become a **servant**.

Think of it. He was a Prince, a King, in heaven with his Father, and he gave up all those glorious riches, and all his power to become a helpless, newborn baby born in a lowly, dirty stable in the middle of nowhere.



The verse says he became a **bondservant**. Any idea what might be?



A bond servant is a person who is free (he is not a slave), but who willingly serves without getting paid. In other words, he works for free and because he loves the person he's working for.

So who was Jesus working for?

First of all, he was working for his Father. He served his Father by listening to his Voice and doing what he said.



He was also working for all of mankind. You and me. Every person in the world--past, present and future. He served other people willingly without expecting to be paid in return.

So what should we do to love others as Jesus did?

Yes, exactly the same as he did. Listen to our Father in heaven and do what he tells us, and serve others freely without expectations of being paid.

How else did Jesus love us?

#2.

Let's look at the verse again, especially the second part.

Philippians 2:7-8 ...but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

It says he became obedient and died on the Cross for us. So, what do you think? Would Jesus ask us to love others by dying on a Cross for them the way he did?

It could be. Sometimes he does. He has asked that of his followers at times. His disciples, Peter, Andrew and Simon the Zealot were all crucified as well. There have been many throughout history and even in our present time that have been crucified for Jesus' sake.



There have been many who have suffered horribly because they would not lie about being a follower of Christ, and who gave up their lives to save others.

But even so—primarily loving others to point of death is talking about crucifying our own selfishness.

In other words, we have to die to what we want and how we want things to be.

We die to our selfishness because we love God and love others. That's what Jesus did.



Is this kind of dying to your selfishness easy? Giving up what you want because someone else wants it differently?

It's not easy at all, is it?

Do you think it was easy for Jesus? Do you think it was easy for him to give up what he wanted?

It wasn't easy for him either....



When he was in the garden of Gethsemane right before they came to take him away to be crucified, he told his Father, "I don't really want to do it this way,

Papa, but... I'll follow your will and not my own."

It was so hard for him that he even sweat blood!

But for him to say not my SELF, but my Father's will—is what the Kingdom of God is all about.



To love the Father's will more than my own will, and to be obedient to God's will even though it means I have to die on a Cross--that's how Jesus loved us. And that's how we can love one another too.



So, does God want us to be unhappy and never have anything we want?

Of course not! That's not the kind of God we serve. It says, "The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and JOY...!
(Rom 14:17).



Of course he wants us to be happy! We have a good Father and he is a good God.



It's just that he knows the happiest times in our lives are when we are being humble and obeying God's care for us, and loving other people as he loved us.



Jesus died on the Cross, yes, but there was great JOY and HAPPINESS afterwards. And this is how it is for us too when we follow him and love one another the way he loved us.



The End