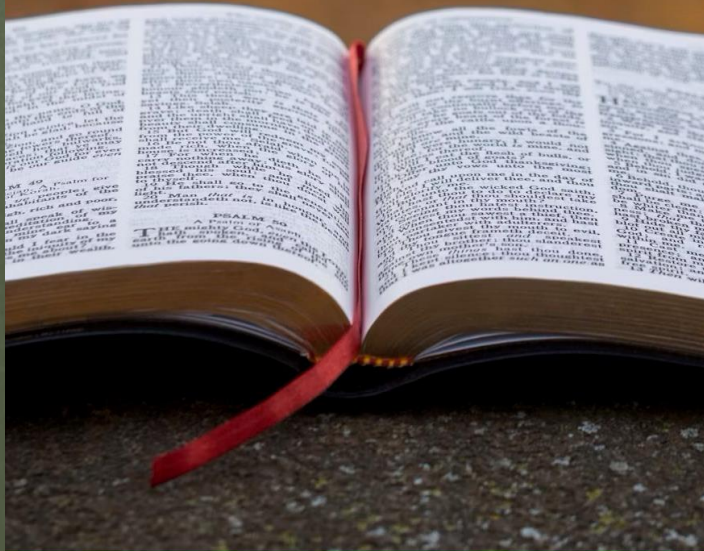


Scripture Reading:

John 13:33-35

14:15-21

15:10-15



**THE
SINGULARITY
and
PLURALITY
of
CHRIST'S
NEW COMMANDMENT**

INTRODUCTION

- ◇ The purpose of Old Testament Law, given to Israel, was to demonstrate by proxy for the whole world, that:
 - ◇ No one could be declared righteous by the works of The Law
 - ◇ The Law exposed the full extent of man's sin nature – Rom 3:26

**The Law could never make anyone MATURE -
Heb 7:19**

**The Law was a “babysitter” for Israel until
Christ finally came - Gal 3:23-25**

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

- ◇ The OT Mosaic Law gave instructions concerning prohibitive behavior (what NOT to do)
 - ◇ **“thou shalt not...”**
- ◇ Since the death and resurrection of Christ, NT grace-believers now be enabled to fulfill the New Commandment which instructs us what TO DO:
 - ◇ **“love one another”**
 - ◇ This singular commandment is also described as having multiple parts/facets and therefore, can also be called **“commandments”**

THE SINGULAR COMMANDMENT

“LOVE ONE ANOTHER”

- ◆ **Love (agape)** = the divine super-natural ability to DO that which is best for another, without demand for repayment
- ◆ **“one another”** = a reciprocal pronoun
 - ◆ one who has the ability to return an act of love, therefore, **another believer**

THE MULTIPLE ASPECTS TO THIS SINGULAR COMMANDMENT (John 14:15, 21; 15:10, 11 John 6)

- ◇ **“Love one another as I have loved you” – Jn 13:34b**
- ◇ A new measurement of love – Rom 13:9
- ◇ How Jesus loved His disciples - Jn 13:1
 - ◇ Jesus told them what the Father told Him to say – Jn 12:49-50
 - ◇ Jesus did only those works that the Father showed Him to do – Jn 5:36, 10:24-25
 - ◇ We love one another by speaking His words (scripture), and doing His pre-planned works – Eph 2:10

THE MULTIPLE ASPECTS TO THIS SINGULAR COMMANDMENT (John 14:15, 21; 15:10, 11 John 6)

- ◇ “Love one another so that all (who see) will (experientially) know that we are His disciples (learners)” – Jn 13:35
- ◇ Illustration of Brother George caring for his wife
- ◇ Who’s watching?
 - ◇ The Lord
 - ◇ Others who we know - or don’t know – II Cor 3:2-3
 - ◇ Spirit beings – I Pet 1:10-12

THE MULTIPLE ASPECTS TO THIS SINGULAR COMMANDMENT (John 14:15, 21; 15:10, 11 John 6)

- ◆ **“Love one another by laying down our lives” –
Jn 15:12-13**
 - ◆ Christ laid down His life to the point of dying for us
 - ◆ Rom 5:6-8
 - ◆ Christ is now dedicating His life to live for us
 - ◆ Eph 5:25-27
 - ◆ We are to lay down our lives for the brethren
 - ◆ Phil 2:1-4
 - ◆ cf I Jn 3:17 love with our “stuff”

CONCLUSION

◇ Born-again believers have been supernaturally enabled to love one another:

◇ **As Christ loves**

◇ According to God's Word and His pre-planned works

◇ **Love so that all (seeing this love) know that we are Christ's "learners"**

◇ **Love by going out of the way for other saints**

◇ Matt 28:19-20 – teach these commandments to other who become believers