

## September 6th, A New Community

**What were some things from last Sunday's message that resonated with you?**

**Was there anything you wrestled with?**

**What would you say are the differences between a crowd and a community?**

READ John 13:34

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

**How did Jesus love His disciples? What does Jesus' love look like?**

A Jesus loved them sacrificially, to the point where he laid down His life for them. He loved them to the point that He set aside His power, position, privileges, need to be in control, His reputation, and His riches. He laid it all down for them and for you and me.

**As Christians, who are we called to love and when are we called to love them?**

**Is it possible to love people if we don't agree with their opinions or actions?**

READ Colossians 3:12-16

**12** Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. **13** Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. **14** Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. **15** And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

**16** Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.”

**As Christians, we are called to clothe ourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. What do people, including Christians, often tend to clothe ourselves with instead of these things?**

**Imagine you feel compelled to shed some light on someone else's perspective or thinking that you disagree with. What kind of approach would Paul and Timothy suggest?**

**Reread verse 13. Why do you think forgiveness and love are so intertwined?**

**If you forgive someone, does that mean you are saying what they did was right or good?**

**What then, is forgiveness?**

**Reread verse 14. Why do you think 'love' is above all? Why not kindness or patience?**

**How does the story of Jesus show us what real love is?**

**Reread verse 16. If you feel comfortable, share what message you are letting fill your life right now. If someone close to you could answer for you, what do you think they might say?**

**Reread verse 15. What is a practical way that we can neutralize bitterness, hostility, hopelessness, fear, jealousy or hatred in our minds and hearts?**

**Imagine a community where humans really did as Jesus commanded and loved each other as He loved us. What do you think that community would be like?**