

November 13, 2016  
Heal Our Land  
Part 1: Love Each Other  
Ted Cunningham

1. Jesus said, “A new command I give you: Love one another” (John 13:34).
  - \*What makes it difficult to love some people?
  - \*Whom might Jesus have had a difficult time loving?
  
2. Jesus gave the command to love one another after he had washed his disciples feet, something a servant usually did. Jesus said he was setting an example for them, that they should do for others what he had done for them.
  - \*Have you ever participated in a foot washing ceremony?
  - \*In today’s church, since most of us don’t come into our homes or institutions with dusty feet, what might be an equivalent to washing feet?
  
3. There are many “one another” passages in the New Testament that help define love. Besides love one another, what are the other eight “one another” commands/encouragements? (**Forgive (Col. 3:13), serve (Gal. 5:13), stop passing judgment on (Romans 14:13), bear burdens for (Gal. 6:2), comfort (I Thess. 4:18), encourage and build up (I Thess. 5:11), be hospitable to (I Peter 4:9), confess your sins (James 5:16) to one another.**) Ted challenged us to memorize these 9 “one another” statements.
  
4. Which of the “one another” statements is hardest for you and why?
  
5. How did Jesus live out each of the eight “one another” statements? (Can’t count “confess your sins.”)
  
6. Give an example of someone who has done one of these things for you: forgiven you, served you, refused to pass judgment on you, bore your burden, comforted you, encouraged or built you up, was hospitable to you, or listened as you confessed your sin.
  
7. If you scroll through your social media, would you see the love of Christ in all of your posts, or at least nothing contrary to love? Give an example of anything you’ve written that demonstrates love.
  
8. Do you think people are “restored” when they’ve been with you? What promotes that?
  
9. How does listening promote love?
  
10. What’s different about you because you know Jesus? How is that displayed in your words and actions?
  
11. Is the church in general perceived as loving today? How about our church?

13. Have you known people who were rejected by Christians?

14. Read this psychologically sound and spiritually profound prayer by St. Francis of Assisi. What one idea within the “Peace Prayer” do you most need to pray this week so that God will enable you to do what we often can not do ourselves?

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen.*