

Leader: *The Word of the Lord!*

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

**Gospel Lesson: “The Church: a Place of Christ’s Love”**

Introduction: \_\_\_\_\_ is an \_\_\_\_\_ characteristic of Christ’s Church.

1. Loving other \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ and essential for me as a Christian (13:34-35, 15:12,17).
2. \_\_\_\_\_ other Christians \_\_\_\_\_ “\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ’s love” (13:34-35, 15:12, 17 and 9-10).
  - a. “Remaining in Christ’s love” is \_\_\_\_\_:
    - 1) “Having Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to love me (instead of \_\_\_\_\_ to love me)” (Psalm 103:2-4, 10-12, 1 Peter 2:24, and Ephesians 1:7).
    - 2) Communicating that I am in a “He \_\_\_\_\_ me; He loves me \_\_\_\_\_” scenario with God (Hosea 2:19, Ephesians 5:25-32).
  - b. I am saved and \_\_\_\_\_ because of the \_\_\_\_\_, merciful \_\_\_\_\_ of God (16, Ephesians 1:4-5).
  - c. “Christ’s love” is \_\_\_\_\_ an aura or spotlight I can step in and \_\_\_\_\_ of through my obedience or disobedience (Psalm 103:2-4, 10-12, 1 Peter 2:24, and Ephesians 1:7).
  - d. Rather, Christ’s love is the \_\_\_\_\_ kind of love that \_\_\_\_\_ has for His people, and it is the kind of love that \_\_\_\_\_ am to have for His people, too.
    - 1) To “\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ’s love” is to \_\_\_\_\_ those Christ loves (and died for) with \_\_\_\_\_ kind of love and commitment (13).
    - 2) This is why Jesus says, “Love each other as \_\_\_\_\_ have loved you” (12, 17, 14:34-35).
    - 3) It is Jesus’ telling me to “Be the \_\_\_\_\_ and feet and \_\_\_\_\_” of \_\_\_\_\_ love for His people.
    - 4) The Church is a \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ’s love for His people.
    - 5) “Remain in My love” is Jesus’ saying for me to \_\_\_\_\_ loving my fellow Christians like \_\_\_\_\_ loves My fellow Christians.
      - a) So, remain in Christ’s love by \_\_\_\_\_ Christ’s love to His people—your brothers and sisters in the Church—by \_\_\_\_\_ and saying \_\_\_\_\_ things for/with them.
      - b) And keep the church a place where Christ’s love is \_\_\_\_\_ and practiced—a place where Christ’s love \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Love with \_\_\_\_\_, as \_\_\_\_\_ defines it (13, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7).
  - a) Jesus’ kind of love means sacrificial \_\_\_\_\_ and humble \_\_\_\_\_ (13, 13:1-17).
  - b) Love is a \_\_\_\_\_ purpose to \_\_\_\_\_ for and \_\_\_\_\_ actions and \_\_\_\_\_ words of \_\_\_\_\_ toward others; it’s not a \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).
  - c) So Jesus commands that we, the Church, as a community, are to love each other in \_\_\_\_\_ way so that, as a church, \_\_\_\_\_ kind of love \_\_\_\_\_ here (12).

Summary: While Christianity has many components (like what we believe!), \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_-out feature that is to mark every church.

When a church’s members \_\_\_\_\_ one another, they are “\_\_\_\_\_” in Christ’s love and making the church a place in which \_\_\_\_\_’s love is \_\_\_\_\_.

Next week: the important \_\_\_\_\_ of a church’s remaining in Christ’s love as its members \_\_\_\_\_ one another well.