

Transformation Journal

May 2, 2010

What's New About Love

Daily Devotions for the week of May 2, 2010

Monday: Review yesterday's notes. *Jesus' new commandment that we love one another can only be understood against the backdrop of how he has loved us (and this is only understood on the other side of Easter)*

Scripture: Read John 13:31-35

Observations _____

Name Personal Applications _____

Journal Questions

1. What's new about love?
2. How has Jesus loved you?
3. What is the toughest obstacle you face in trying to love other people as Jesus as loved you?

Prayer Focus

Ask forgiveness for the times that you have not loved others as Jesus has loved you.

Tuesday: *The new covenant promised through the prophet Jeremiah is fulfilled in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Through Christ, God's law (i.e. the law of love) is internalized. Through Christ, God can be known as an indwelling presence.*

Scripture: Read Jeremiah 31:31-34

Observations _____

Name Personal Applications _____

Journal Questions

1. What is the difference between experiencing God as an indwelling presence or as an external force? How do you most often experience God?
2. What do you think of the idea that the crucifixion of Jesus was God's pen writing his law of love on your heart?

Prayer Focus

Pray for opportunities today to grow in intimacy with Christ.

Wednesday: *Jesus' new commandment (that you read on Monday) is restated in today's passage. Each passage sheds a little different light on how Jesus has loved us, thus giving clearer focus on what he means for us to love one another.*

Scripture: Read John 15:9-17

Observations _____

Name Personal Applications _____

Journal Questions

1. How well do you lay down your life for others?
2. Do you feel more like Jesus' servant or his friend? What helps develop friendship?

Prayer Focus

Pray to develop your friendship with Jesus.

Thursday: *Today is another passage that describes how Jesus is our pattern for loving one another. Laying down your life for another can take the form of daily sacrifice for others in need.*

Scripture: Read 1 John 3:11-23

Observations _____

Name Personal Applications _____

Journal Questions

1. What daily sacrifice can you make for another s in need and thus obey the new commandment to love one another?
2. How would you like to consciously practice Jesus-like love over the next week? With your family? A friend? At church? IN politics? With a difficult person? With a person in need?

Prayer Focus

Pray that you might be prepared and responsive to show Jesus-love to someone else today.

Friday: *God's essential nature is revealed in today's passage. Namely it is seen most clearly in the Son and his work. This is the basis for our relationship to other people. It is also the true nature of our humanity (which has been distorted by sin). Loving others is the only authentication that we know God.*

Scripture: Read 1 John 4:7-21

Observations _____

Name Personal Applications _____

Journal Questions

1. If you want to do a better job of loving others, how should you go about it? What is the only way to improve (see vv.15-16)

Prayer Focus

Saturday and Sunday – Read over your notes for the week and see how you are doing with your personal applications