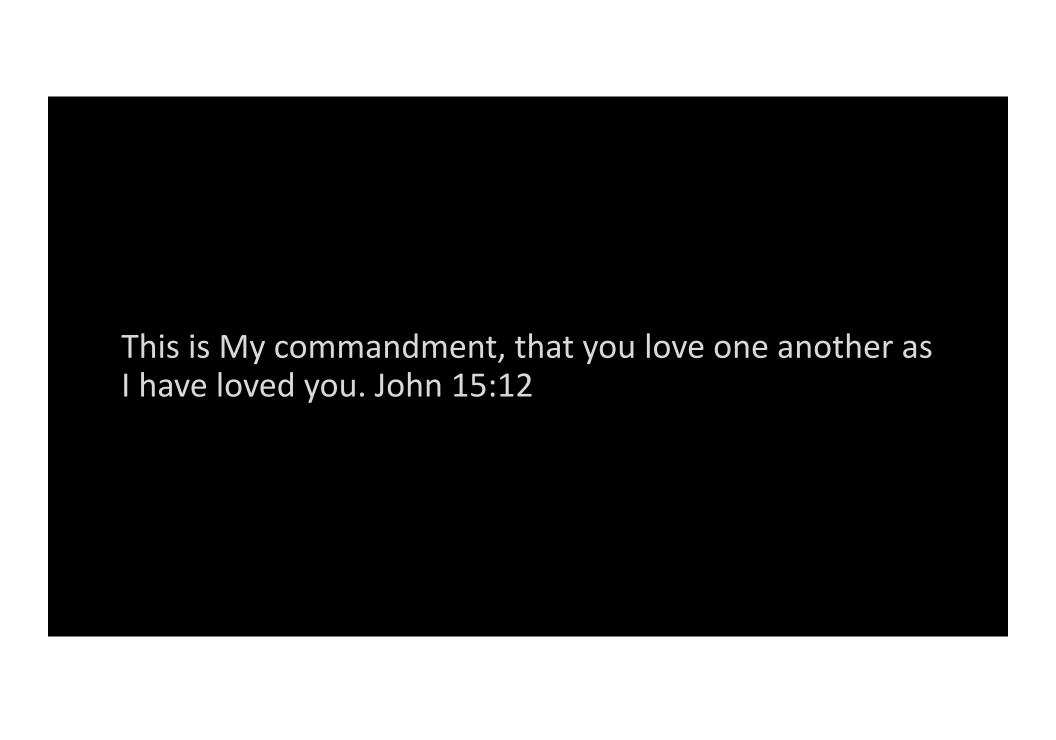
Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31



• The Apostle John wrote about identifying with Jesus' love in our relationships with other Christians in 1 John 3:16

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 1 John 3:16



If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? 1 John 4:20

But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. ... love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. Luke 6:27-28; 35-36

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ... Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ... Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. ... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:14,17,19,21

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT)

If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Romans 12:18

Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. Romans 14:19

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3 (NIV)

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: Hebrews 12:14

- 1. Identifying with Jesus Christ affects the way you treat people.
- 2. Those who identify with Jesus Christ love other followers of Jesus.
- 3. Those who identify with Jesus Christ are to be known by their love for one another.
- 4. Those who identify with Jesus Christ live a lie if they claim to love God yet hate a brother or sister in Christ.

- 5. Those who identify with Jesus Christ love their enemies.
- 6. Those who identify with Jesus Christ let His love mark all of their relationships.
- 7. Those who identify with Jesus Christ know that if their works do not flow from their love relationship with Jesus Christ, their works amount to nothing in God's sight.

- 8. Those marked by Jesus Christ become more patient and kind; less jealous, proud or boastful; less demanding of their own way; less irritable; hold no grudges; reject injustice; embrace the truth; don't give up or lose faith; become more hopeful; and endure difficult circumstances as He changes them more and more into His image.
- 9. Jesus Christ is the first love of those who identify with Him.

10. Those who identify with Jesus Christ treat people the way they have been treated by Jesus Christ, regardless of how those people identify.