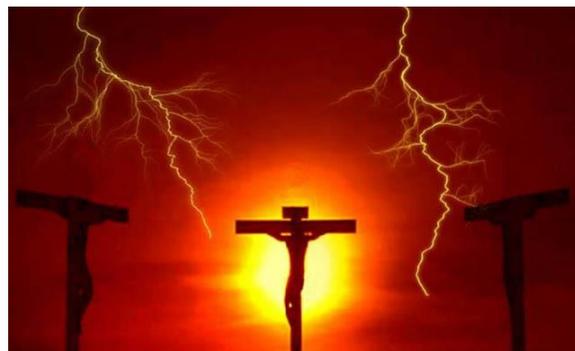


*"A **new commandment** I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:34-35no2 KJV*



This new commandment is very like the first and greatest commandment: *"Thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."* It is direct and narrowly focused on specific action. The second commandment was to *"love your neighbor as yourself,"* which focuses on physical need, but Christ took the new, a step further; *"as I have loved you."* The new law does not negate the established law, but is rather a completion of it. The primary work of Christ was to *"seek and to save that which was lost; to save His people from their sins."* Man's greatest need is to escape the death and corruption of carnal mortality brought upon all men by the first Adam. The last Adam, Jesus Christ, brought life to men. *"In Him was Life; and the Life was the Light of men. Jesus said...I am come that they might have Life, and that they might have it more abundantly."* Righteousness replaces the carnal man with a *"new creature"* for all who will receive, believe, and obey God's Word. Adam's disobedience brought death to all. Christ's obedience brought Life to ALL who believe and repent. *"Being found in fashion as a man, He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* God selflessly assumed mortality and sinlessly died the death of the guilty for the guilty to eradicate their guiltiness before His Holiness. God could have destroyed creation and begun anew, but His ultimate purpose was to manifest His matchless mercy, love, and grace to and in those who deserved it not a whit: *"That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are [God's] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them (obey His Word)."* Jesus desires that we emulate His perfect love by forgiving and loving one another beyond the physical needs of the flesh. *"Let each esteem [the] other better; exhorting one another: as ye see the day approaching."* We *"can do all things through Christ,"* so isn't it best for us to build up one another's *"faith of Jesus Christ"* rather than fellowship about temporal things? Our love for one another needs to address the eternal more than the temporal, while at the same time not neglecting one another's physical needs. *"If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, 'Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled;' notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?"* God does not neglect believer's temporal needs and promises to *"supply all your need according to His riches in glory."*

The love of Christ to emulate,  
To not a moment hesitate,  
A brother's pain eradicate,  
Till I arrive at heaven's gates. ~CGP

Christ fed the hungry, healed the lepers, and forgave the sinners besides performing His primary work of Redemption! Even in the throes of greatest agony He cried *"Father forgive them! They know not what they do!"* His triumph over death is the triumph of true believers, who are evidenced by their *"love one to another."*

*"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." John 15:12-14 KJV*