

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER - 9AM & 5PM
SERVICE

JOHN 13: 31-38

A RENEWED HEART- FROM PROGRAMS TO RELATIONSHIPS

Jesus' last words to His key people "Love One Another" v34 A

Yet the real challenge follows "As I have Loved You" v34 B

This is what sets us apart "By this, all men will know" v35

For God made us not for religion but relationships v36-37

Spiritual renewal brings a mindset change to His church: people, not programs

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

We all like to have the last say. Share those life moments when you want to make your words really count. After three years of ministry, these are the last words Jesus gives to his disciples before leaving them. What is the significance of this, and what should be our response to this teaching? Do you think we have become complacent with God's command to love one another?

The second part of verse 34 is the real challenge. Discuss together what it means to love as Christ has loved us. Share biblical accounts of the love Jesus displayed. What is different about it compared to human love? Share together the characteristics of Jesus' love.

The Bible says that anyone can love those that love us back. How does Jesus' love set us apart as His followers? Do you think we fully grasp this, or like the world, can we be selective in our love? Share together your own personal reflection on this matter – are you sometimes selective in directing your love?

Peter didn't grieve religion and the rules. He was going to miss having Jesus with Him. Do you agree that our deepest need is relationships, not religion? Why do we sometimes invest in the latter at the expense of people? What is the true "why" behind the programs of the church? Why are we sometimes guilty of just being busy and not a blessing? How does this change the way we minister?

You and I can't love others as Christ loved us. It is simply not in us. Spiritual renewal, dry bones coming to life is the key. The evidence of this transformation will be seen in our relationships. People are always more important than programs, rules and regulations. What is your response?