

**A new commandment**

***Love one another***

**Isn't it easy to love another?**

**Then why a commandment?**

**It is because of the words that follow immediately**

***As I have loved you***

**As Spiderman said to his friend Harry**

**There is something more important here than you and me**

**The call to love takes us out of ourselves**

**The call to love as Christ loves is a self-sacrificial love**

**One that does not come naturally**

**We see this love in our 1<sup>st</sup> reading**

**Paul and Barnabas have been traveling the Mediterranean**

**Converting many**

**Setting up new churches**

**But it wasn't all a bed of roses**

**They were constantly being persecuted as well**

**Paul was stoned and left for dead**

**He was given 30 lashes many times**

**They were shipwrecked**

**Yet they continued on**

**Because they knew God was at work in them**

**They were serving something greater than themselves**

**Despite the hardships**

**The fasting and prayer**

**They were faithful, and God blessed their work**

**Opening the hearts of the Gentiles to the Gospel**

**Making many disciples**

**In Revelation, John records a vision**

**New heavens and a new earth**

**The old order**

**Filled with death and tears is gone**

**The new order is seen**

**Where God dwells with his people**

**Wiping away the tears**

**No more pain, wailing or mourning**

***Behold, I make all things new***

**This is the glory of God**

**The glory of God and the love Christ calls us to**

**These are interrelated and connected**

**To really understand this**

**We need to understand love**

**In Aramaic and Latin, there are 4 senses of love**

**The most basic sense is *storge***

**This is a love based on familiarity**

**The natural love of a parent for a child**

**Brothers and sisters, or other relationships based on chance**

**This is a love that comes almost naturally**

**It is a love that we miss when it is not there**

**Then there is *Phileo* love**

**The city of Philadelphia**

**The city of brotherly love**

**This love is the love of friendship**

**It is a strong, intentional love**

**Common interests or work is often the basis for this love**

**But it is freely chosen, and can become a strong bond**

**It is a love that time and distance do not break**

**It is also a love that is misunderstood in our world today**

**Because so much of our world centers on *eros***

**This love is a romantic love**

**One that begins on the emotional level**

**It is the love that brings us to 'being in love'**

**This is a beautiful and necessary love for humans**

**But it is also one that can be misused**

**If this is all one seeks**

**It remains an immature love**

**Living on the externals**

**The last level of love is *agape***

**This is the love Christ commands us to have**

**It is a self-sacrificial love**

**The love that allows us to lay down our life for another**

**The love of Christ on the cross**

**This is the love of our enemies**

**The love we have for those we really don't like**

**The love for those we could never experience *eros* or *phileo* or *storge***

**For these and for those we don't even know**

**We can offer *agape***

**In loving this way, we in turn glorify God**

**Again, this is not a human glory**

**Our five minutes of fame that all these reality shows promise**

**That is a false glory**

**That is the glory Satan tempted Christ with**

**That is a fame and glory that breeds jealousy and fear**

**It is the glory the Sanhedrin knew**

**And they were afraid Christ would take it from them**

**Because they thought there was only so much to go around**

**It was at the root of their fear of Christ**

**Christ sought to gain honor for another**

**To gain honor for God**

**Something that was difficult for his followers and his enemies to grasp**

**Something that remains difficult for us to grasp as well**

**For those at the time of Christ, there was shame in being a criminal**

**Ultimate shame in being executed for your crime**

**The Jewish leaders and Roman army sought this ultimate shame for  
Christ**

**It was all they knew**

**But like he did with most things**

**Jesus stood this shame on its head**

**In obedience, he brought honor to his Father**

**And he teaches us how we are to honor God**

***I give you a new command***

***Love one another***

***As I have loved you***