

# Love one another – a personal response

Think about this definition of love from 1 Jn 3:16

*“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”*

Review the checklist below and think about one thing you can do immediately to ‘lay down your life for someone else.

Before you can serve others in the bigger areas of life, you need to begin where the disciples began by serving others in the ‘nitty-gritty’ of relationships.

## Family relationships

Think for a moment about your relationships. They really begin in the family. What are you willing to do for those you say you love? And remember Christ loved his disciples unconditionally, even when they were inconsistent, selfish, proud, impatient with one another, unkind, jealous, rude and untrusting.

What ways are you loving as Christ loved? In what ways are you being selfish?

- ☐ I want to be served rather than to serve.
- ☐ I want to be first rather than last.
- ☐ I want to be honoured rather than looking for ways to honour others.
- ☐ I want people to pay attention to you rather than giving others attention.

## Relationships with other Christians

What about other Christians? You may often say you love others. What does your lifestyle say? 1Jn 3:18 says:

*“Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.”*

- ☐ I am willing to serve others in love even when I am not given public recognition.
- ☐ I’m actually looking for opportunities to be a servant.
- ☐ I’m praying for other Christians at least as much as I pray for myself.
- ☐ I am sharing a percentage of my money so that the body of Christ can function adequately.
- ☐ I am practising hospitality (even in this Corona season) to minister to others.

## Relationships with non-Christians

What about your relationships with non-Christians? The Bible says we should especially do good to the ‘family of believers’ but it also tells us to ‘do good to all people’ (Gal 6:10). Jesus of course, set the supreme example. He not only died for His friends but also for his enemies. So in this time of Lockdown ask yourself this:

- ☐ I have asked God to help me 'love my neighbour as myself'?
- ☐ I'm actually reaching out to establish friendships with non-Christians in this season of Corona.
- ☐ I am concerned that non-Christians understand the gospel and become Christians?
- ☐ I make an effort to meet new people –both Christians and non-Christians?

Write out one step you are going to take to 'love others as Christ love you.'

After reviewing your response share with the rest of the group which area of your life (family relationships, relationships with other Christians, or relationships with non-Christians) you feel *least* demonstrates loving as Christ loved.

### For further discussion

1. In what ways do you experience Christ's servant love in your relationship Him?
2. What examples of Christian servanthood have you observed in family life – your own or someone else's?
3. What examples of Christian servanthood have you observed at GWAC?
4. What examples of Christian servanthood have you observed in relationships between Christians and non-Christians?
5. Brainstorm specific actions (in addition to those in the Personal Response), which demonstrate Christ-like servant love in family relationships, relationships with other Christians and relationships with non-Christians.
6. Pray together that you God will enable you to take the step to love others this week as Christ loves you.