

**Authentic Community 1**  
**Love One Another**  
**John 13:34-35**  
**April 9, 2024**

AUTHENTIC  
COMMUNITY  
RELATIONSHIP  
RECIPROCAL  
CHARACTER TRANSFORMATION  
*Eros, Philia, Agape*

1. **ROMANS 13:8-9** **8** Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. **9** For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
2. **1 PETER 1:22** **22** Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,
3. **1 JOHN 3:11, 18, 23** **11** For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another ... **18** Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth ... **23** And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.
4. **1 JOHN 4:7, 11-12** **7** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God ... **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12** No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.
5. **GALATIANS 5:6** **6** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.
6. **1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13** **1** If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. **3** If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. **4** Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant **5** or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; **6** it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. **7** Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **8** Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. **9** For we know in part and we prophesy in part, **10** but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. **11** When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. **12** For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. **13** So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

## B. DISCOVERY QUESTIONS (JOURNAL YOUR DISCOVERIES)

1. What do the six verses above say about the PURPOSE of love?
2. What is the NATURE [behavior patterns] of love?
3. What is the FUNCTION of love?
4. Each group member shares a time when you have felt love from someone - or a group of believers - in this church [Body of Christ].
  - a. What was the event or need?
  - b. How was love demonstrated?
  - c. How did you feel when this love was communicated to you?
5. Based on these group 'love stories', make a list of what love should look like in the Body of Christ [church].
6. What is it about us that keeps us from *loving one another*?
7. What specific things can you / we do to start *loving one another* today?

## C. WRAP-UP

1. Who - or what - do we commend today?
  - \* We celebrate a person or event that exemplifies how we are practicing the *love one another reciprocal command* in our group.
2. What do I / We need to confess? [How we personally or corporately have failed to practice the *love one another command*]
3. What will we commit to? [Specific action steps [1-2] we can take in the weeks ahead to practice the *love one another reciprocal command*].