

***The Lord's New Commandment Given to Us—That We Love One Another*****Monday 2/13****Related Verses****John 13:14, 34-35**

14 If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

35 By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

**2 Cor 13:14**

14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**1 John 1:1-3**

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of life

2 (And the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and report to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us);

3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

**1 John 4:8, 16**

8 He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.

16 And we know and have believed the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him.

**Related Reading**

The commandment of the Lord is His word. This means that His commandment is not merely an injunction; the Lord's commandment is also a word conveying the life supply. In John 6:63 the Lord Jesus said, "The words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life." Therefore, in 1 John 2:7 "the word" indicates the life supply. Whatever the Lord speaks is a word supplying us with life and spirit. What the Lord says may also be an injunction demanding that we do a certain thing. Nevertheless, as long as that injunction is

something uttered by the Lord, something that proceeds out of His mouth, it is a word that supplies us with life. Therefore, whenever we take the Lord's word and keep it, we receive the life supply. (*Life-study of 1 John*, p. 144)

---

In John 13:34 and 35...[the] commandment is the message which we "heard from the beginning, that we should love one another" (1 John 3:11). We should not try in a natural way to fulfill this word. We may realize that God is love (4:8) and that we are commanded to love one another. Then in a natural, religious, and ethical way we may try to love others, imitating God's love...This kind of love is ethical, natural, and even cultural. However, real love is the issue of enjoying the processed Triune God in the divine dispensing. When we are in the fellowship of the divine life, that is, in the enjoyment of the Triune God, this enjoyment will have a certain issue or outcome. The outcome of the enjoyment of the Triune God is the divine love...With this love we spontaneously love others. In particular, we love all those who are organically related to our begetting Father (1 John 5:1). We have been begotten of the Father, and many others also have been begotten of Him. If we enjoy Him, the result will be that we love all His children. Therefore, loving the brothers is the issue of enjoying the Triune God.

Instead of trying to imitate the Lord's love, we need to be constituted of the Triune God who is love. This One abides in us and wants to impart Himself into our being and saturate us with Himself so that we may enjoy Him inwardly as love. This love should saturate us until it becomes the love with which we love the brothers.

The revelation concerning love in the New Testament is different from our natural concept of love. The very God who is love abides in us, and we abide in Him. According to 1 John 3:24, "We know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He gave to us." This Spirit keeps us in an organic union with the Triune God who is love, causing this God to become our life and even our being. Furthermore, this Spirit is saturating us with the substance of the God who is love. Eventually, the fibers of our being will be constituted of the loving essence of God. This means that the divine love becomes us. Then spontaneously we love others.

As a child of God born of Him, we surely love our Father, the One who has begotten us. Since we love the begetting Father, we shall also love those who have been begotten of Him. Here we have a triangular love, a love involving God, ourselves, and all those born of God. This triangular love is in the organic union with the Triune God who is love.

For believers to love God and to love one another...is possible only because we have had the divine birth (John 1:12-13; 1 John 5:1; 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:4, 18). We have been born of God, begotten of Him, and because of this birth we are able to love one another...Now we love not only the One who has begotten us, our begetting Father, but also the ones begotten of Him. This is the love with which the believers love one another in the church life. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 1769-1771)

Further Reading: *Life-study of 1 John*, msgs. 15-17; *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, msg. 163

**Corporate Reading: *The Economy of God and the Mystery of the Transmission of the Divine Trinity*, chapter 11, section(s):** Becoming a Useful Vessel in the Lord's Hand (1); Pursuing the Growth in Life

**Tuesday 2/14****Related Verses****John 3:16**

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that every one who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

**1 John 4:9-10**

9 In this the love of God was manifested among us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might have life and live through Him.

10 Herein is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son as a propitiation for our sins.

**Titus 3:4-5**

4 But when the kindness and the love to man of our Savior God appeared,

5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,

***The Lord's New Commandment Given to Us—That We Love One Another*****Gal. 2:20**

20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

**Heb. 4:16**

16 Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

**Eph. 2:4-5**

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)

**Related Reading**

Man's condition speaks of his need for salvation. The source of salvation is the love of God. God's love is the source of His salvation. If God had no love, man would have no salvation.

Although God is righteous and holy in His nature, His heart is love. God must do things according to His righteous procedure and in agreement with His holy nature. According to God's righteousness, sinners deserve only to be judged. According to God's holiness, such filthy ones are fit only to fall dead before Him. Although His righteousness condemns us and His holiness rejects us, God's heart loves us. He not only loves us; He "so loved" us. Because He loves us, He gave His only begotten Son to prepare salvation for us. (CWWL, 1932-1949, vol. 3, "Crucial Truths in the Holy Scriptures, Volume 1," p. 94)

---

Ephesians 2:4 says that the love with which God loved us is a great love. Because of His great love, God came to save us. His great love caused Him to love not only sinners but also those who were dead in offenses and sin.

The love of God originated in God's heart, but when it appeared, it became our salvation [Titus 3:4-5]. When God's love is manifested to us, it saves us. God's salvation comes out of God's love. God's saving hand

issues out of His loving heart...His loving heart appeared through His mighty hand to become our salvation.

God's love caused Him to give us His Son [John 3:16]. God did not love us without taking action on our behalf...To accomplish salvation for us, God specially gave us His only begotten Son. This shows the greatness of God's love toward us as well as the preciousness of the salvation that God accomplished on our behalf. God's great love accomplished this precious salvation for us.

Because of His love for us, God sent His Son that we might have life [1 John 4:9]. The salvation that God prepared for us is not only for us to be saved but also for us to have His life...He was willing to do this for the simple reason that He loved us. Since God loved us, He was willing to suffer the sending of His only begotten Son for the accomplishment of our salvation so that we might have His life.

We had a problem in our relationship with God. Therefore, God sent His Son as a propitiation for our sins [v. 10] in order to restore our relationship with Him. God did this because of His love. Although sin caused a problem in our relationship with God, we had no thought of dealing with our sin in order to restore our relationship with God. Even if we desired to restore this relationship, we would have had no ability or way. However, God's love caused Him to send His Son to accomplish this matter for us before we even had such a thought.

God's love not only accomplished our salvation but also gave us a way to obtain salvation. How condescending God's love is toward us! It accomplished our salvation and devised a way for us to obtain salvation. If God had done less than this, we would not have been saved.

Having accomplished our salvation, God entreated us to be reconciled to Himself. We were far off from God, we had rejected and opposed Him, and we were His enemies. Nevertheless, He entreated us to be reconciled to Him...This entreaty is a proof that God loves the unbelievers and desires that they obtain His salvation through those who believe. (CWWL, 1932-1949, vol. 3, "Crucial Truths in the Holy Scriptures, Volume 1," pp. 94-96)

Further Reading: CWWN, vol. 50, "Messages for Building Up New Believers (3)," ch. 47

**Corporate Reading:** *The Economy of God and the Mystery of the Transmission of the Divine Trinity*, chapter 11, section(s): Being Equipped in the Truth

**Wednesday 2/15**

**Related Verses****Rom. 5:5**

5 And hope does not put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

**1 John 2:7-8**

7 Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you but an old commandment, which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you heard.

8 Yet again a new commandment I am writing to you, which is true in Him and in you because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

**1 John 3:11, 23**

11 For this is the message which you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,  
23 And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, even as He gave a commandment to us.

**Rom. 8:37-39**

37 But in all these things we more than conquer through Him who loved us.

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor things present nor things to come nor powers

39 Nor height nor depth nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Jer. 31:3**

3 Jehovah appeared to me from afar, saying, Indeed I have loved you with an eternal love, Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.

***The Lord's New Commandment Given to Us—That We Love One Another*****Related Reading**

In the realm of grace the first thing we enjoy is the love of God...(Rom. 5:5). Many times in our Christian life we need encouragement and confirmation. As we pass through periods of suffering, we may have questions and doubts. Perhaps you say, "Why are there so many troubles in my Christian life? Why are there so many trials and tests?"...Although these doubts arise, we cannot deny that the love of God is within us. From the day we first called on the Lord Jesus, the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. This means that the Spirit reveals, confirms, and assures us with the love of God. The indwelling Holy Spirit seems to say, "Don't doubt. God loves you. You don't understand why you must suffer now, but one day you will say, 'Father, I thank You for the troubles and trials which I passed through.'" When you enter the gate of eternity, you will say, "Praise the Lord for the sufferings and tests which fell upon me on my journey. God used them to transform me." (*Life-study of Romans*, pp. 102-103)

---

We cannot deny the presence of God's love within us...Christ died for ungodly sinners such as we. Once we were enemies, but Christ shed His blood on the cross to reconcile us to God. What love is this! If God has given us His own Son, surely He will not do anything to hurt us. God is sovereign. He knows what is best for us. The choice is His, not ours. Regardless of our preference, what God has planned for us will be our portion. Everything related to us has been prepared by our Father. We should simply pray, "Lord, have your way. I simply want what You want. I leave everything entirely in Your hands." This is our response to God when we realize afresh that He loves us so and that His love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. (*Life-study of Romans*, p. 103)

The commandment of brotherly love is both old and new: old, because the believers have had it from the beginning of their Christian life; new, because in their Christian walk it dawns with new light and shines with new enlightenment and fresh power again and again.

The relative pronoun "which" in 1 John 2:8...refers to the fact that the old commandment of brotherly love is new in the believers' Christian walk. This is true in the Lord, since He not only gave it to His believers but also renews it in their daily walk all the time. This is true also in the believers, since they have not only received it once for all, but also are enlightened and refreshed by it repeatedly.

In verse 8 John tells us that the darkness is passing away and that the true light already shines. The passing away of the darkness is its vanishing in the shining of the true light. The true light is the light of the Lord's commandment. Because this light shines, the commandment of brotherly love dawns in the darkness and makes the old commandment new and fresh throughout the entire Christian life.

After any kind of human commandment has been given, it gradually becomes old. Human commandments are not living. Because these commandments are not living, they never dawn and they never shine. But the commandment given by the Lord is His living word. Because His commandment is His living word, this word shines. When this living word dawns in the darkness, it dawns with heavenly light. The shining of heavenly light makes old things new. In particular, it makes the old commandment new, fresh, and full of light. (*Life-study of 1 John*, pp. 144-145)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Romans*, msgs. 9, 21

**Corporate Reading: *The Economy of God and the Mystery of the Transmission of the Divine Trinity*, chapter 11, section(s):** The Defects and Influences of Christianity; The Mistake of the Catholic Church

**Thursday 2/16**

**Related Verses**

**1 John 4:11-15, 17-21**

**11** Beloved, if God has loved us in this way, we also ought to love one another.

**12** No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

**13** In this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, that He has given to us of His Spirit.

**14** And we have beheld and testify that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world.

**15** Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God.

**17** In this has love been perfected with us, that we may have boldness in the day of the judgment because even as He is, so also are we in this world.

**18** There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear because fear has punishment, and he who fears has not been perfected in love.

**19** We love because He first loved us.

**20** If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

**21** And this commandment we have from Him, that he who loves God love his brother also.

**Related Reading**

In order to practice the divine love as a virtue of the divine life, we need the divine life and the divine Spirit. The divine life is the divine seed that we all have within our regenerated spirit. In addition to the divine life that has been sown as the divine seed into our being, we also have the divine Spirit within our spirit...The divine life is the source, and the divine Spirit is the One who actually carries out the matter of loving others. The divine love is our daily living as the expression of the divine life carried out by the divine Spirit. (*Life-study of 1 John*, p. 233)

---

It should not be with our natural love that we love God and His children. On the contrary, our natural love needs to be put on the cross. We should love God and His children with the divine love, the love that is conveyed to us through the word of the Lord and that becomes our experience and enjoyment.

How can our love for God be called the love of God? It is because this love is not our love, but is God's love. However, this is not the love of God as it is objectively; it is the love of God experienced by us subjectively. This is the love of God becoming our love through our experience and enjoyment of Him. This love then becomes our love for God and others.

***The Lord's New Commandment Given to Us—That We Love One Another***

If we experience the love of God, we shall have the deep realization that our natural love is one thing and that the love of God which becomes our love through experience is something very different. One difference between God's love and our natural love is that it is very easy for our natural love to be offended.

When we love others, we become involved with them. For this reason, it is often the case that those we love in a natural way eventually become our enemies. Because natural love may have such a result, those who are wise in a human way are slow and careful in loving others. They realize that if you love others in a foolish way, sooner or later that love will cause trouble.

We need to love others by the love of God we have experienced and enjoyed. If we experience God's love, we shall love God with this love. We shall also love the brothers with this same love. This kind of love does not cause trouble. May we all see that we need to love God and others with the divine love that has become our experience and enjoyment.

In order to fulfill this condition [of the divine fellowship—loving God and the brothers], we need to know God continuously and experientially...We need to know Him experientially by continuously living in the divine life. Our daily life should be a life of knowing God constantly, for our life should be a life of living God. As long as we live God, we shall constantly know Him.

If we would experience and enjoy the divine love and have it become the love by which we love God and others, we need to know God experientially. This is the basic requirement for having the love of God become our love.

When we keep the Lord's word and receive His supply, the love of God will be perfected within us. This means that as we receive the supply of the Lord's word, the love of God becomes our enjoyment, and this enjoyment issues in a love for God and the brothers.

If we would fulfill the second condition of the divine fellowship—the requirement that we love God and the brothers—we must know God. If we know Him, we shall keep His word. If we keep His word, we shall receive His supply of life. Then the love of God will be perfected in us. Our experience and enjoyment of God's love will

issue in a love for God and the brothers. This is the fulfillment of the second requirement for maintaining the divine fellowship. (*Life-study of 1 John*, pp. 139-142, 149-150)

Further Reading: *Life-study of 1 John*, msgs. 18, 27-29, 34-35; *CWWL, 1957*, vol. 2, "The Administration of the Church and the Ministry of the Word," ch. 6

**Corporate Reading: *The Economy of God and the Mystery of the Transmission of the Divine Trinity*, chapter 11, section(s): A Brief History of Fundamentalism; The Error of Reformed Theology**

**Friday 2/17**

**Related Verses****1 John 3:14**

**14** We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brothers. He who does not love abides in death.

**Matt. 16:24-25**

**24** Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

**25** For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.

**Eph. 5:1-2**

**1** Be therefore imitators of God, as beloved children;  
**2** And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.

**2 John 4-6**

**4** I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, even as we received commandment from the Father.

**5** And now I ask you, lady, not as writing a new commandment to you but that which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another.

**6** And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, even as you heard from the beginning, that you walk in love.

**Rev. 3:7-8**

**7** And to the messenger of the church in Philadelphia write: These things says the Holy One, the true One, the One who has the key of David, the One who opens and

no one will shut, and shuts and no one opens:

**8** I know your works; behold, I have put before you an opened door which no one can shut, because you have a little power and have kept My word and have not denied My name.

**Related Reading**

We need to love the brothers. The reason for this is that the church life is a corporate life, a life that involves the brothers. If we lose our brotherly love and if we no longer love one another, what will become of the church life? The answer is that the church life will disappear. Where there is no brotherly love, the church life is finished. Actually, brotherly love is the church life...The church life is a life of brotherly love.

In 1 John 3:14...to pass out of death is to pass out of the source, the essence, the element, and the sphere of [satanic] death into the source, the essence, the element, and the sphere of [the divine] life. This took place in us at our regeneration...Faith in the Lord is the way for us to pass out of death into life; love toward the brothers is the evidence that we have passed out of death into life. To have faith is to receive the eternal life; to love is to live by the eternal life and express it. (*Life-study of 1 John*, pp. 154, 236-237)

---

Several verses after the revelation of Christ as the rock and the believers as stones for God's building, the Lord Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me" (Matt. 16:24). To take up one's cross means to bear one's cross. Verse 25 continues, "For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it."...Please notice that in verse 24 we are told to deny the self, and then in the next verse we are told that we need to lose our soul-life for the Lord's sake. Hence, the self in verse 24 is clearly the soul-life in verse 25. We should not save our soul-life. Rather, because the soul-life is the self, we must deny it and lose it.

If we are to realize the church life, we must take the path of denying our self, losing our soul-life, bearing the cross, and following the Lord Jesus. To reiterate, we must first know Christ in an adequate way so that we can

***The Lord's New Commandment Given to Us—That We Love One Another***

realize the building of the church. Then if we are going to realize the building up of the church and live the church life, we must always apply the cross of Christ to our soul-life, our self, and follow Him. The way to follow the Lord is simply to walk according to the spirit (Rom. 8:4), for in resurrection the Lord is the Spirit in our spirit (2 Cor. 3:17; 2 Tim. 4:22). Hence, if we are to follow the Lord, we must know how to walk, live, and do things in the spirit.

The more you follow the Lord, the more you will long to have fellowship with other saints; the more you deny your self, the more you will love the brothers; the more you bear the cross, the more you will want to be in the church. This is a spiritual law. If you love the Lord, you will love other saints. If this morning you prayed to the Lord in a living way, you will find a way to contact the brothers at some point during the day. Whenever you meet the Lord, the Lord will turn you to the brothers. (CWWL, 1963, vol. 2, pp. 322-323)

God's intention in His creation of man was that man would take Him in and express Him. Taking in God and expressing God should be man's joy and amusement. Man's happiness and entertainment must be God Himself, and this is not an objective God but a subjective God. To take God in and to live God out is man's joy...God created man with the need for amusement, but our amusement must be God Himself...God Himself is the unique fulfillment of our need for entertainment. (CWWL, 1978, vol. 1, "The Exercise of the Kingdom for the Building of the Church," pp. 103-104)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1967, vol. 1, "Serving in Coordination and Washing in Love," ch. 2; CWWL, 1977, vol. 2, "The Spirit and the Body," ch. 16

**Corporate Reading: *The Economy of God and the Mystery of the Transmission of the Divine Trinity*, chapter 11, section(s): Fighting the Good Fight of the Truth**

**Saturday 2/18**

**Related Verses**

**John 15:5, 9-17**

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

9 As the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

11 These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full.

12 This is My commandment, that you love one another even as I have loved you.

13 No one has greater love than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

14 You are My friends if you do what I command you.

15 No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all the things which I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.

16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and I set you that you should go forth and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give you.

17 These things I command you that you may love one another.

**Related Reading**

John 15 tells us that all the branches should bear fruit (vv. 1-5). A tree has not only one branch; it has many branches, and all the branches bear fruit in a way of fellowship. This is why later in that chapter the Lord Jesus tells us that we have to love one another (vv. 12, 17). If we love one another, the people of the world will see that we are the disciples of Christ (13:34-35)...In order to be fruitful, we have to love one another. (CWWL, 1965, vol. 1, "Preaching the Gospel in the Way of Life," p. 281)

---

All people deep within are seeking a life and love in real mutuality. This desire for mutuality is in the human nature as something created by God. Not one human being truly wants to live by himself or herself individually...When we live by Christ, in Christ, with Christ, and for Christ, we have love for one another, and this mutual love becomes a strong testimony. This is the outworking of the inner life and the power to bear fruit.

In order to be prevailing and fruitful in the preaching of the gospel, we must pay our full attention to the Body life. The more we live in the Body life and have the reality of the Body life, the more we will be fruitful. Such a life will be a strong testimony to our relatives, friends, schoolmates, and neighbors. When all these people see the kind of mutual love we have among us as Christian brothers, they will be very impressed and influenced. This will pave the way and open the door for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts. To have the real Body life helps us to be prevailing. I believe that this is the very reason why the apostle Paul uses the word fellowship in Philippians 1:5. All the branches bear fruit together, one with another. Not one branch bears fruit individually. (CWWL, 1965, vol. 1, "Preaching the Gospel in the Way of Life," p. 281)

The condition of the vital groups is that of loving one another in oneness and with one accord (John 13:34-35)...We must admit that although we do love one another, we may not love one another very much. Because we meet together day after day and year after year, we surely have human affection for one another, but the condition of loving one another in the vital groups should be more than this.

We not only love one another, but we love one another in oneness and with one accord. In John 17 the Lord Jesus said that when His disciples are one in the Triune God, the whole world will believe that He was sent by the Father (vv. 21, 23). This is the way to gain people...If two or three of us go out as one man, the people whom we visit will realize that there is a dynamic power among us. There will be the impact, and they will be convinced. (CWWL, 1991-1992, vol. 3, "Fellowship concerning the Urgent Need of the Vital Groups," pp. 407-408)

If we will give up all the hindrances, bonds, and frustrating elements, the Holy Spirit will have a free way to move. When the Holy Spirit has the free way to move, many things will begin to happen...Many new believers will be brought into the church. Another thing that will happen is that the saints will genuinely grow in their spiritual life, and their spiritual gifts will begin to be manifested. In addition, the saints will begin to love one another more. The experience of the divine life will

***The Lord's New Commandment Given to Us—That We Love One Another***

result in an increase in love, because love is the issue of life (1 John 3:14). This will cause the church life to be living, prevailing, functioning, and powerful. This is what God's people are longing for. Deep in their spirits they are longing for this. (CWWL, 1963, vol. 4, "Contacting the Lord, Being Filled in Spirit, and Having Proper Christian Meetings for the Accomplishment of God's Eternal Purpose," pp. 42-43)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1965, vol. 1, "Preaching the Gospel in the Way of Life," ch. 9; CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 5, "The Vital Groups," ch. 8

**Corporate Reading:** *The Economy of God and the Mystery of the Transmission of the Divine Trinity*, chapter 11, section(s): First Being Equipped with the Truth

**Lord's Day 2/19**

**Related Verses****1 John 3:16-21**

**16** In this we know love, that He laid down His life on our behalf, and we ought to lay down our lives on behalf of the brothers.

**17** But whoever has the livelihood of the world and sees that his brother has need and shuts up his affections from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

**18** Little children, let us not love in word nor in tongue but in deed and truthfulness.

**19** And in this we will know that we are of the truth, and we will persuade our heart before Him,

**20** Because if our heart blames us, it is because God is greater than our heart and knows all things.

**21** Beloved, if our heart does not blame us, we have boldness toward God;

**1 John 5:1-3, 16**

**1** Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten of God, and everyone who loves Him who has begotten loves him also who has been begotten of Him.

**2** In this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and do His commandments.

**3** For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

**16** If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin not unto death, he shall ask and he will give life to him, to those sinning not unto death. There is a sin unto death; I do not say that he should make request concerning that.

**Further Reading:**

*Life-study of 1 John*, msgs. 15-16  
*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, msg. 163

**Hymns, #867**

- 1** As members of the Body  
Christ we would manifest,  
Each learning how to function  
His fulness to express;  
We would not be spectators  
But each as members move,  
None bringing death or damage  
But each our profit prove.
- 2** As in a team we'd never  
Act independently,  
But in coordination,  
Each would dependent be;  
Not acting by our choosing  
But following the flow,  
Distraction never bringing,  
The Spirit's way we'd know.
- 3** On Christ we here would focus,  
No other center make;  
With Christ in sweet communion  
His riches to partake.  
He is our Head and content,  
His Body we express;  
Whate'er we do while meeting  
Himself must manifest.
- 4** Built up in love together,  
Not one would criticize;  
To perfect one another,  
We all would exercise.  
Each one from self delivered,  
The natural life forsakes;  
In grace each trained in spirit  
The Body-life partakes.