

Gospel: The Revolutionary Power of the Christian Life// “Community” // John 15:12; 13:34–35

Tomatillo:

- When grown individually, tomatillo plants do not produce any fruit. To grow tomatillos, you have to grow at least two plants together so they can cross-pollinate.
- We are the same way. God has designed us so we don't grow alone.

John 15

We're spending 8 weeks in John 15, looking at the essential components of the gospel-centered life.

- Let's review where we've been:
 - The first week we took an overview of the chapter, showing how the gospel changes us in a way like nothing else can. Religion can tell us what to do; but it can't give us the desire or power to do it. Kind of like commanding a dead man to breathe. No matter how well you command them...
 - So the gospel is not really a list... but an announcement of what God has done for us; and as your eyes see the glory of that and your heart is overwhelmed by the grace of it, you begin to desire God.
 - Then we started looking at the 5 practices Jesus said we would have if the gospel has really changed us. I've told you think of it like a WHEEL

- (Small groups are encouraging people to rate themselves).
- The first week was **the Word**; the 2nd week was the **development of godly character**. The third one is in John 15:12:

John 15:12 *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."*

- Mark #3: Living in community.

This theme surfaces a lot in Jesus' talk. (Remember I explained that chapters 13–17 of John are one, long talk? Jesus' farewell speech to His disciples. **John 15 is like the summary**. Let's go to a couple of other places in those chapters He develops this a little bit)

John 17:23, Jesus is praying, and says, *"I pray... that they may be one even as we are one. I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me."*

- There's a lot about the Trinity that is hard to understand. **1 God; eternally existing in 3 persons. 1+1+1 = 3? Sounds like 3 Gods! The Bible could not be clearer that there is only 1 God. If that makes your head hurt... remember we're talking about God.**
- Even if it's hard to understand, it is a model for us. God has always existed in community, in perfect love. He's never been a loner.
- He created us in His image; and His unity in the Trinity is a model for our relationship with one another.

John 13:34 *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."* [35] *"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

Let's dig down in this one, and ask some questions of these statements by Jesus:

First, Jesus says in vs. 34 that this a “new commandment.”

Really? To love each other? That was brand new?

- Let me read to you **Leviticus 19:18**, which was old as Israel itself (Leviticus is like the original documents of Israel; their Constitution): **“You shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”**
- **(vs. 34)** So the commandment itself was not new; **what was new was the standard they would use to measure their love: “As I have loved you”** They were to love each other in the same manner and to the extent that He had loved them.
- That word **new** can carry the connotation of ‘revolutionary.’ This is my revolutionary commandment: ***“love one another as I have loved you.”***

So, the 2nd question we should ask: **How did Jesus love us?** Give you 5 ways that He has just demonstrated that to them:

1. He served them

- Context of chapter 13: He washed their feet. This pretty well blew their minds; because the universal approach to power is that you use it to elevate yourself.
- When you have power, you should use it for self-promotion or self-benefit. Are you smart? Leverage that to make money. Do you have money? Leverage that to increase your standard of living. Do you have a position of power? Leverage that to control your world in a way that benefits you.
- But here He is with all those things: (He was plenty smart; He had lots of money; and was all-powerful) but at the end of His life He’s washing their feet, and He’s not using His power to protect Himself from danger but to pour Himself out for them.
- **As He washed their feet He explained to think that this was just a symbol of the ultimate way He was going to serve them;** He would spill His blood to wash the dirtiest parts of them, which was not their feet it was their sin-blackened souls.

- His whole life was spent leveraging His power for their benefit, not His. So let’s call that #2:

2. He leveraged His abilities for their needs

3. He shared in their pain and their sorrow

- He entered into it. He felt it.
- There’s a scene in **John 11** where Jesus shows up at Lazarus’ tomb. Lazarus has just died and Mary and Martha, his sisters, are weeping. Shortest verse in all the Bible, John 11:35, “Jesus wept.” Why was He weeping? If you read the context of the story, you see that He knows He’s about to raise Him from the dead. Skip the weeping; get to the raising! The answer is because they were weeping; and He is so connected to them; into their pain that when they weep; He weeps.
- He feels our pain and our sorrows; He makes them His very own. He has made Himself one with us. Just like each member feels what the other members of the Trinity feel, because they are one essence, Jesus feels what we feel.
- Do you have a broken heart? Jesus feels it with you.
- **Yes, He is a God who sits high above the heavens and holds the worlds in the hollow of His hand; but He’s also a God who came so close to us that He weeps with us in our pain.**

4. He lived among them

- He came close to us. He didn’t stand in heaven and shout His love toward them with a bullhorn. He incarnated Himself among them (which means He took on flesh and blood) and was born into our pain and poverty.
- He got so close to them that He could be touched, interrupted, and betrayed with a kiss.
- **I spent 2 years of my life in SE Asia. I heard that Indonesia was the largest Muslim country in the world.** I felt compassion for them. But it was compassion for a concept. Largest Muslim country in the world. 220 million people. 50,000 villages with

no gospel witness. When I got there I started to put faces with them and my compassion for them grew. But I was still separated from them. I was part of a team of Americans, and I still spent a lot of my time with them. I couldn't speak the language really well: When I got there I could say, "Hi, my name is J.D...." It was just easier to befriend my American friends. Well, after I'd been there about 9 months I'd started to pick up the language, and my roommate came down with the most severe case of kidney stones I'd ever heard of. He ended up with 103 kidney stones in his left kidney. Needless to say he had to leave. So for about 3 months I was all by myself. That forced me to begin to really befriend Indonesians. So I got close to some of them. I became part of a family. I really started to love them.

- That's what Jesus did. He came close and showed us His love. He made Himself one of us. Which leads me to #5:

5. He bridged the gap to get to them

- I think there's something in all of us that wants to be with people like us. People that are our same education level; have the same sense of humor; same race; same socioeconomic status. It's who we enjoy the most, have the most in common with.
- There was never a greater gap than that which Jesus overcame in coming to us. He was **the Creator**. He designed the nucleus of the atom. (I've told you that most of you can't figure out how to get the clock to quit flashing 12:00 noon on your DVD player.) He was **rich**, but was born into a family that couldn't afford medical insurance. He was **perfectly holy**, and we were so sinful we couldn't stand in the Father's presence.
- Jesus didn't come to us because He was lonely. God existed as Trinity; that was His "circle." Jesus prefers to hang out with other persons who were also

God. He left His circle and came into ours for the purpose of including us in *His!*

1 John 3:1, Behold *what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called the children of God!* Not just the amount of God's love, but the manner of love! **Revolutionary love: serving, self-emptying, empathizing, incarnating, gap-bridging, love.**

John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."

So, let's go back through the list:

1. He served us: Are you serving others?

- Let's start right here at the church.
- We constantly have a shortage of team members
 - I'll hear somebody who is married say...
 - I hear someone who is single...
 - Is this the attitude of Christ? These feet are about to have nails in them...
- Everyone should be on a ministry team; not because it's a passion of yours, but because you are serving the body! Washing feet.
 - Guys in orange vests
- Action step: ballpark
- Of course, let's not limit it to that... Is your general attitude? Are you using your power to go up or down?
- St. Augustine said that the church most differed from the world in 3 areas: how it treated sex; money and power. The world is promiscuous with its sex but stingy with its money; Christians are stingy with their sex but promiscuous with their money. Power: the world uses power for self-promotion. Jesus used it to save and rescue.

- To be a follower of Jesus means your life is characterized by service, and those with the most power serve the most.
- **Good question for you:** Is your life more characterized by the world's attitude toward power, or Jesus? How have you used what God has given you? For self-promotion, or leveraged for the salvation of others?
- **Are you more a disciple of Jesus Christ, or Donald Trump?** Who do you more resemble in how you've used your power?

2. He leveraged His abilities for our needs: Are you leveraging your life for others?

- What if Jesus leveraged His abilities for you the same way you are leveraging yours for others. Jesus was like, "You know, I've got a pretty good gig here, being God and all." I can just sit back now and live off of the interest of being God...
- A lot of Christians who have received Jesus but continue to live for themselves. **Jesus is like a fire escape.**
- You're going to have to answer to God for it.
- Our love has to be more than words. **1 John 3:16-18** By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. [17] But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? [18] Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.
- Not in talk but in deed: **What's your giving like?** The people who make the most in this church give, percentage-wise, the least. We've got young professionals making 28K a year giving 10%, and some making over \$200,000 that give much, much less, percentage-wise. I want you to enjoy the fruits

of your success. But I also wanted you to know that God prospered for you for the sake of His kingdom, and if what you do with it is leverage it for yourself, you are not His disciple. To follow Him means you approach your life with the same general mentality He approached His with. And that wasn't one in which He lived in His riches, but leveraged them for us.

- **When you see someone in need in our church, do you respond?** K Lucas
3. **He shared in our pain and their sorrow: Do you share in the pain of others?** (Related to next one)
 4. **He lived among us: Are you really involved in people's lives?**
 - Can people touch you? Are you close enough to feel their pain?
 - *Who do you know and are praying for outside of people in your family?*
 - Are you investing in people? Everyone should have someone they are investing in. That's the whole process of making disciples. Life on life; 2 or 3 people you are bringing along.
 - Pastor, I'm so busy. Jesus had 12 guys He invested in. Jesus was pretty busy. He had a pretty full schedule and a lot on His plate. He was the Son of God, He preached sometimes to upwards of 15,000 people, was constantly in approached by people needing miracles or answers, and in His upheld all things by the word of His power. And He still made time to know and be known by 12 B-list guys. I think you have room in your life for 2 or 3.
 - *Everybody should be pouring into somebody.*
 - If I asked you to pull out your phone right now and show me the numbers of 3 people in your contacts who

are not Christians that you could call right after this and go to Starbucks with, could you do it?

- Do you know a poor person?
- That leads me to #5:

5. **He bridged the gap to get to us: Are you bridging the gap to get to others?**

- Are you building your life around people you feel comfortable with, or around people who need Jesus?
- To follow Jesus is to follow Him across the gap.
- Told you last week that 150 of our members are living overseas:
 - That's not their preference: They recognize that God loves those people, and just like Jesus came to us when we were apart from Him, someone has to go to them:
 - I remember when I told my parents... we always wanted our son to live close by, but there's somebody else's son out there who needs Jesus...
 - Students who live in certain dorms; fraternities...
- How about the poor parts of our city? HOPUD. **NOT Projects!**
 - Not every one of us is called to the same thing... but some of you need to live among them.
- **Are you willing to be a part of a church that is not about you, but is about reaching people far from God?**
 - **Comment cards:** You ought to see the comment cards. You can tell some of them are written by other believers who are church-shopping... we won't be coming back to your church because we think the music is too loud. Not loud enough. They are looking for a church that has everything just the way they like it, designed for them! I want to send some of these people back a note that says, "IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU!"

- They think this place is crafted around my preferences, and they want to tell me that they don't like mine:

- **We ask 2 questions: What pleases God and what reaches people?**

- Don't you care that they won't come back? No, we actually need their seat for someone who realizes it's not about them and be a part of the mission. **I only want 2 kinds of people: people who need Jesus and people who have given themselves to the mission of Jesus.**

- **Are you willing to be a part of a church where everybody is not just like you, which means we'll do some things that aren't your preference?**

- ******DIVERSITY LETTER*** This girl gets it. It's not that she doesn't still have her own preferences; just that unity in the gospel is LARGER than those preferences. This is the question for the rest of us... are we willing to be a part of a church... some of you white people... "I don't like people being expressive in church. You don't realize that you're sitting next to people from other less stuffy cultures who can't figure out why you sit through worship like you're watching a documentary!***

I want you to notice Jesus' prediction of the power this kind of church will have in its effect on the community:

[13:35] *"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, How will the world know? My careful apologetics; music that sweeps people up to the grandeur of the heavens? if you have love for one another."*

- By seeing the love Christians have for one another.
- In John 17 Jesus said, "When they see the love Christians have for each other, the world will catch a glimpse of Me. They will see in the love of believers a God-like love that rings deeply in their hearts even if they can't explain what it is.

- Well, see, we were created in the image of God which means we were created for what? Fellowship and community, and that means when you are not in this kind of community you are living out of your design.
- There are some things that are more powerful than logic. (**E.g. Medicine that heals you can't explain!**)
 - **Acts 2:42-47.** The fullness of the Spirit produces the church. When the church is just being the church... the presence of a healthy local church in a community is the greatest catalyzation for the evangelization of that community.
 - Wasn't even that the church sent missionaries; it's presence was the missionary!
- *"We must never forget that the final apologetic which Jesus gave is the observable love of true Christians for true Christians... The world is going to judge whether Jesus has been sent by the Father on the basis of something that is open to observation." (Francis Schaeffer, The Marks of the Christian, 29, 35)*
- Summit, how will we change our cynical community?
 - Big events with great music? That attracts crowds, but it does not convince skeptics
 - It's the manifestation of Christ's glorious love in His body, the church, on display in the community.
 - **The beauty of the church is not in the architecture, it's in the body.**
 - **We don't want to amaze the community by what we build in here, but in how we live together out there.**
 - **It's not our performance on this stage that they will find compelling, but our love for one another in our community.**

My desire in all of this is that you see the centrality of the church, the local community, in God's plan.

It's like the tomatillo plant. You can't grow alone. There is no genuine discipleship apart from involvement in God's church.

You say, "Well, I'm part of the universal church. I'm not part of a local church; I'm part of the big church. I worship God alone."

- Wrong.
- The word for church is used 115 times in the New Testament. Over 100 of those times it refers to a local church.
- The word *ekklesia* means, literally, a grouping, an assembly." The word means a "togetherness."
- The Bible does not recognize a walk with God that is separated from the people of God.

Something we say around here:

The local church is God's plan A. It's how God chooses to work in the world.

- **It's how God works in our lives**
- How the mind relieves the itch of the elbow: we are praying for certain things and not availing ourselves to the answer to that prayer
- The largest factor in whether counseling succeeds is the relational network of the one being counseled
- Veronica and I have learned so much about raising Godly children from being in this church. Hasn't all been positive: "I don't want our kids to be like that. What do they do? Let's do the opposite." God gives various members wisdom for the sake of us all.
- Some of you are praying for direction or help in your marriage and you're mad because God is not giving it, but it's like you're praying to God to quench your thirst while you're standing by a water fountain.
- **It's how God reveals more of Himself to us**
 - **Study the Gospels:** Jesus healed everyone differently... some people He healed by speaking a word; a couple He healed by letting them die and bringing them back from the dead; one He healed by spitting on the ground and making mudcakes for His

- eyes (seriously?) Some people got to have food multiplied to them. Nobody got it all.
- Same today. Different parts of Jesus are manifested in different people's lives. Only by knowing those people will you know God more! When you come on Sunday morning, you are hearing what I see about Jesus. You are hearing what one man has experienced in Jesus.
- **There's a part of Jesus I can only know by knowing you, because He reveals Himself in you in a different way than He does me.** Jesus dealt with me and healed me a certain way because that was what I needed. You, you were a lot more proud and stubborn than I was...

Today, an action step: Group link *today*; Be listening for references to next *Starting Point*

What keeps us from Community:

- Some people have... **An unhealthy desire for privacy & isolation**
 - You just don't like people. It's easier.
 - **Proverbs 18:1**, "*Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire, and he breaks out against all sound judgment.*"
 - "Things that grow in a secret garden almost always grow mutant." David Powlison
 - A few weeks ago I spoke at a friend's church in Texas...
 - Struggling with depression.
 - 99% known is unknown
 - "People will judge me." Yes, you're going to have to take that risk. But when grace starts to saturate your heart, their opinion of you becomes less consequential
 - In Christ, I have lost my dependence on you thinking I'm perfect.

- Some of you won't admit your flaws because you think your self-worth is dependent on everyone thinking you're perfect.
Newsflash: We're not fooled. And the more you try to act perfect the more ridiculous you become in everyone's eyes. It would be much less annoying if you would just acknowledge about yourself what we all see.
- As you embrace the grace given to you in Christ, you don't need other people's approval so badly. In Christ, I have the full approval of the only one whose opinion really matters.

- **Gospel prayer, part 2:** "You are all I need today for everlasting joy."

- You see, Jesus is not just the model for our love, He is our source. He gives us the ability to love and be real in community.

- **Vertical/horizontal**

- **Our Christianity has nothing to do with knowing and serving God**

- You're just not that interested: We come to church to get a religious buzz or to feel good like we've checked off a religious box, but we have no desire to really become a disciple of Jesus.
- You might say you're a follower of Jesus, but you're a follower of Jesus like I'm a follower of certain people on Twitter.
- How many of you are on Twitter? How many think that people on twitter are twits? I follow like 265 people on Twitter. Some of them are my friends, want to keep up with them; some of our staff members so I can see what they are really doing in; Justin Bieber: I'm a believer. Fashion line of clothing. I didn't rush right out...
- You don't want to be in a place where people know you and hold you accountable; you are just not that serious about knowing and obeying God.

- I can't tell you for sure that everyone who is not in a small group or on a ministry team is not a disciple of Jesus (this is not the only way to serve God). But I can tell you that weekend attenders are not disciples

Conclusion: Are you a disciple? Not going to be a legalist, but some of you this is the question. Off of the sidelines, into the game!

I'm writing to you as an African American female. I was in search of a church home in Durham and visited many different churches in the area. I went to where all the black people go in Durham, I went to Duke Chapel, and at the suggestion of my friend and a student of mine, I came to the Summit. Now, my first reaction was quite hesitant simply because the praise and worship at my home church in Portsmouth, VA and at the Summit are about as different as Beyonce and Mother Theresa.

(She goes on to say how the worship grew on her and then...) I was mainly just super excited to hear what was going to happen next in the Bible. I found myself leaving church every Sunday and meeting up with a friend or calling my mom and sharing what I'd learned and how the word was directly applicable to my life and my circumstances. My friends were shocked but excited and my mom just kept saying "Praise the Lord," coupled with, "You like going to church with all those white people?" Bless her heart.

The praise and worship at the Summit has grown on me quite a bit and now I have favorite songs and my Pandora stations are sprinkled with Chris Tomlin (and Matt Papa, of course). I've learned that it isn't about the color of the pastor but am I getting the Word, am I hearing the gospel, am I learning and growing in my relationship with Christ and the answer to all of those questions since I've been attending the Summit is "YES."

The Lord has allowed you all through His Word to create a change in me. I have become a much calmer person since I really started digesting the Word of God. I've become prayerful, I've become a little bit of a God nerd in the sense that I'm reading all these books to learn more about Him. I never thought I'd read anything by C.S. Lewis beyond *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, and that was in 5th grade. I want to know more about Him and I want to thank Him and praise Him for all that He has done for me and those around me. I am learning to trust in Him and I have huge trust issues.

I want to thank the Summit Church. Keep making it so that people like me who had honestly strayed far from the Lord feel like it is okay to come back. When I first started coming to the church there were 2 guest pastors who visited and at that time I was still trying to figure out this large church and whether or not I was welcome at the church as an African American. Both of the guest pastors were African American and I was like, "Ok, J.D., I see you – you are down with the brothers." Also now you have Omar and me and my friends were super excited about that and really want to be a part of helping him and his beautiful wife in the development of a new branch of Brier Creek. Their presence will serve as an invitation to other people of color. That's just how it works. We like to have a successful model before we roll in to the situation...

J.D.: this is gospel-centered unity! Are you white people willing to change like this?

Bullpen:

- We were created by a Community, in the image of a Community, to live in community for the glory of THE Community. **Spence Shelton, resident genius on small groups**
- "The Christian faith requires community. I cannot follow Jesus alone anymore than I can get married alone."¹
 - a. Analogy: C.S. Lewis had 2 best friends. One was a guy named Charles Williams; the other JRR Tolkien. He said not only did I lose Charles Williams but I lost that part of JRR Tolkien that only Charles Williams can bring out. Instead of having more of J.R.R. Tolkien to myself, I had less. Well it is the same way with Jesus.
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- **This giving starts in the church and spills over.** One of my favorite verses on this: **"Do good to all men, especially those of the household of faith." (Galatians 6:10)**
 - i. "I don't really agree with that." Me: "I've never really heard anyone admit that..."
 - ii. It spills over: Story: clean up for tornado

Prov 27:10

Vertical/horizontal

Tomatillo Plants: Need each other to grow. Just like we do

- 1 John 3:17 (not in word or talk, but in deed and truth)
- Ken Lucas - Couple started coming to his group who was living together. The couple quickly came under conviction and decided they shouldn't until they got married. Prob: guy didn't have cash to live on his own. Solution: Ken said come live with us. 2 weeks after guy moves in, Ken breaks both of his ankles in an accident. This new guy is then there to pick up a big load of the house work Ken couldn't do.

Research Questions:

- What makes this command *new*?
 - Deut 6:5. The newness is in *how* they love
- Synopsis of "one another" commands
- Why does Jesus simply say that the world will know we are His disciples rather than that He is true?

Illustrations:

- NYC prayer revival
- Afraid of rejection? You have gotten your "yes" in Jesus
- God's litmus test; the world's litmus test
- We all want a band of brothers
- River Kwai?
- Not a fast food joint: believers should be belongers

¹ Timothy Paul Jones, *What Does Jesus Want?* (Discipleship Journal, April 2007)

- 90% of the times the word church is used in the NT it refers to a local body of believers.

Supporting Texts

[13] Greater love has no one than this, that someone 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 servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. [16] You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. [17] These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

John 17:20-26

[20] "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, [21] that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. [22] The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, [23] I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. [24] Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. [25] O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. [26] I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

One guy at NRC small group had major tornado damage to his house back in April. Next day, 40-50 Summit members showed up at Kyle's house for clean up. In fact, so many came that they

had to disperse out into the neighborhood and start helping neighbors. Even did a cookout that night for the neighborhood. Opened door to major conversations with his neighbors.

Ken Lucas - Couple started coming to his group who was living together. The couple quickly came under conviction and decided they shouldn't until they got married. Prob: guy didn't have cash to live on his own. Solution: Ken said come live with us. 2 weeks after guy moves in, Ken breaks both of his ankles in an accident. This new guy is then there to pick up a big load of the housework Ken couldn't do.

People who have lost their jobs and been taken care of (Ron Jamison lost business and home)

"i wrote to you a few months back telling you how my small group has taken me in..and helps me so..i am having major surgery on the 19th of this month and they are so here for me...i am single and poor without benefits and God knew i needed love

and caring and He provided more than i could have imagined..

“What would it mean, though, if we took the radical notion of being brothers and sisters seriously? What would happen if your church saw an elderly woman no one would ever confuse with “cool” on her knees at the front of the church praying with a body-pierced fifteen-year-old anorexic girl? What would happen if you church saw a white millionaire corporate vice president being mentored by a Latino minimum wage-earning janitor because both know the janitor is more mature in the things of Christ?” Russell Moore, 38–9

St. Augustine said that the church most differed from the world in 3 areas: how it treated sex; money and power. The world is promiscuous with its sex but stingy with its money; Christians are stingy with their sex but promiscuous with their money. Power: the world uses power for self-promotion. Jesus used it to save and rescue.

Is your life more characterized by the world’s attitude toward power, or Jesus? How have you used what God has given you? For self-promotion, or leveraged for the salvation of others?

Jesus’ church was to be a community that loved each other like He loved them. We were to treat one another (horizontally) how God has treated us (vertically) in Christ. [This (vertical) was always to be the basis of this (horizontal).]

[15:13] “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”