

HOW TO TURN INTO GOD'S EMBRACE ③

MANDATUM NOVUM: LOVE ONE ANOTHER

John 13:34-34

John 13:34 *I GIVE YOU A NEW COMMANDMENT, THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER. JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, YOU ALSO SHOULD LOVE ONE ANOTHER.³⁵ BY THIS EVERYONE WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU HAVE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER.*

John 17:20 *I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word,²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also 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 THEM, SO THAT THEY MAY BE ONE, AS WE ARE ONE,²³ I IN THEM AND YOU IN ME, THAT THEY MAY BECOME COMPLETELY ONE, SO THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW THAT YOU HAVE SENT ME AND THAT YOU HAVE LOVED THEM EVEN AS YOU HAVE LOVED ME....*

1 Corinthians 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that **ALL OF YOU BE IN AGREEMENT** {*legāte*, having the same attitude, being committed to the same thing, lit. being 'on the same page'} and that there be **NO DIVISIONS** {*schismata*, schisms, splits} **AMONG YOU**, but that you be **UNITED IN THE SAME MIND** {*nous*, having the same attitude or intention} **AND THE SAME PURPOSE** {*gnōmā*, having the same volition or resolve}.

Philippians 2:1 Since there is encouragement in Christ, since there is consolation from love, since there is sharing in the Spirit, since there is compassion and sympathy,² make my joy complete: **BE OF THE SAME MIND** {*phroneō*, having the same desire or concern}, **HAVING THE SAME LOVE**,

BEING IN FULL ACCORD AND OF ONE MIND {*phroneō*, have the same desire or concern}.³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.⁵ **LET THE SAME MIND** {*phroneō*, having the same desire or concern} **BE IN YOU THAT WAS IN CHRIST JESUS**,⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,⁷ but **EMPTIED HIMSELF**, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,⁸ he **HUMBLED HIMSELF** and **BECAME OBEDIENT** to the point of death — even death on a cross.

Ephesians 4:1 **I... BEG YOU** to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,² **WITH ALL HUMILITY AND GENTLENESS, WITH PATIENCE, BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE**,³ **MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO MAINTAIN THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE**.⁴ There is **ONE BODY** and **ONE SPIRIT**, just as you were called to the **ONE HOPE** of your calling,⁵ **ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM**,⁶ **ONE GOD AND FATHER OF ALL**, who is above all and through all and in all.

GLORY OF GOD

- ◆ **LOVE** For & Toward One Another ◆ **'ONENESS'**
 - ◆ **UNITY** {*Desire • Purpose • The Spirit*}
- ◆ **ONE** Body, Spirit, Hope, Faith, Baptism, God Of All

GLORY OF GOD = 'the visible manifestation of God's majesty in acts of power.'

The GLORY OF GOD — God's visible acts of power — is expressed in JESUS-FOLLOWERS' LOVE FOR AND TOWARD ONE ANOTHER.

NOTE: Many well-meaning folks teach (especially to children) that our actions toward others will prove to the world that WE love God, placing an emphasis on whether our behaviors bespeak OUR love for God. Problem is, even were someone to 'see God' in our behaviors (a proposition which is, at best, questionable, and at worst, downright arrogant!), proof to the world that WE love God is of no consequence to the world. OUR love for God neither saves nor heals. For Jesus, the church's love for one another proves that we *have been loved by God* and so constitutes a witness to God in Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave himself up for us. Cf. Galatians 2:20

To **TURN INTO GOD'S EMBRACE** is to LOVE ONE ANOTHER — **EVERY LAST 'ANOTHER' IN THE CHURCH.** To **TURN INTO GOD'S EMBRACE** is to EMBRACE EVERY CONFESSOR OF JESUS AS LORD. To **TURN INTO GOD'S EMBRACE** is to LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.

St. Paul wrote to the Roman Jesus-followers: **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, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'** Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, LOVE IS THE FULFILLING OF THE LAW. Romans 13:9-10

1 John 2:9 **Whoever says, *I am in the light*, while hating {meseō, to despise, disregard, exclude, ostracize} a brother or sister, is still in the darkness.** ¹⁰ **Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light, and in such a person there is no cause for stumbling.** ¹¹ **But whoever hates another believer is**

in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and does not know the way to go, because the darkness has brought on blindness.

JESUS, SIMON THE PHARASEE, & A LOVING WOMAN

Luke 7:44 **Turning toward the woman, Jesus said to Simon, *Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair.*** ⁴⁵ ***You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet.*** ⁴⁶ ***You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment.*** ⁴⁷ **THEREFORE, I TELL YOU, HER SINS, WHICH WERE MANY, HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN; HENCE SHE HAS SHOWN GREAT LOVE. BUT THE ONE TO WHOM LITTLE IS FORGIVEN, LOVES LITTLE.**