



spiritual infant

DISCIPLE ME

THE ONE ABOUT PURPOSE PART 3: LOVE ONE ANOTHER

READ: LAWS AND COMMANDMENTS

You've probably heard of the 10 Commandments (Exodus 20). You may even be able to recall some from memory: "*Honor your father and mother; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; etc.*" But did you know that the Old Testament contains over 600 laws that God's people were supposed to follow? All these laws could be broken down into three different categories. There were Civic Laws that governed daily life for the Israelites. There were Ceremonial Laws that gave instructions for performing sacrifices and rituals for the spiritual life of God's people. And there were Moral Laws that taught the nature of God's world and what was God's desire for His people.

DISCUSS:

- Why do you think there were so many laws and commandments in the Old Testament?
- In your opinion, how effective are laws at influencing human behavior?
- Have you ever found a law or a commandment in the Bible that seemed strange or odd? If so, what was it?

STUDY: JOHN 13:1-17

The passage we will read today happens near the end of Jesus' life. He's gathered His closest friends for a holiday celebration – The Passover Meal – and Jesus knew something they didn't. This would be their last meal together before His death. So, at this meal, he did something strange and shared with them a new teaching, something He wanted them to remember after He was gone.

Read John 13:1-5

- What do you think John means when he says, "Jesus knew that the hour had come"?
- Why do you think Jesus got up and began to wash the disciples' feet?

Read John 13:6-9

- How do the disciples react to Jesus washing their feet?
- How would you have reacted if you were one of the disciples in this story?

Read John 13:12-17

- What example did Jesus say they should follow?

After Jesus had washed their feet, they enjoyed their meal, still trying to wrap their minds around what Jesus had done. They shared friendship and fellowship as they remembered the Passover. Then, before they were finished, Jesus had one last thing to share with them.

Read John 13:33-35

- What final command does Jesus give to His disciples?
- How does Jesus say people will know that they follow Him?

READ: THE LAW OF LOVE

These words are a bit like Jesus' Last Will and Testament to His friends, and the context in which He shares them is on a night that they will never forget. He didn't just tell them about love; He showed them how to love others.

On one occasion, an expert in the law, a man who knew the 600 Old Testament Laws backward and forward, came to Jesus and asked him, *"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"* Jesus' response was, *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments."* For Jesus, the Law of Love was the most important thing someone could do to demonstrate their devotion to God. It's through loving God and loving others that Christians find their meaning and purpose.

CHALLENGE:

- Take some time this week and contact the staff at your church. Learn more about the local and global missions that your congregation supports and learn about how your church is living out the law of love. Pick one from the list to learn more about and share with your Discipleship Partner(s).