A close-up photograph of a collection of dark, reddish-brown, irregularly shaped stones. In the center-left of the frame, a single, light-colored, heart-shaped stone stands out. The stone has a rough, natural texture with some darker veins. The lighting is warm, creating soft shadows and highlights on the stones.

A NEW COMMANDMENT

.....

John 13:31-35

When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once

John 13:31-32

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
We have seen his **glory**, the **glory** of the one and only Son,
who came from the Father, full of **grace** and **truth**

John 1:14

Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.'

John 13:33

Love One Another

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself**: I am the Lord

Lev 19:18

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’³¹ The second is this: ‘**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12: 30-31

A New Commandment

1. A New Standard

- Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another

2. A New Identity and Mission

- By this all people will know that you are my disciples

3. A New Nature

- I give to you

A New Commandment

1. A New Standard

“.....just as I loved you”

THE RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON



A Story of Homecoming

HENRI J. M. NOUWEN

AUTHOR OF WOUNDED HEALER

Who is going to be home when they return—tired, exhausted, excited, disappointed, guilty, or ashamed?

Who is going to convince them that, after all is said and done, there is a safe place to return to and receive an embrace?

If it is not I, who is it going to be?

In your **relationships** with one another,
have the same **mindset** as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature **God**,
did not consider equality with God
something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a **servant**,
being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a **man**,
he **humbled** himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even **death** on a **cross**!

Phil 2: 5-8

LOVE CRUCIFIED



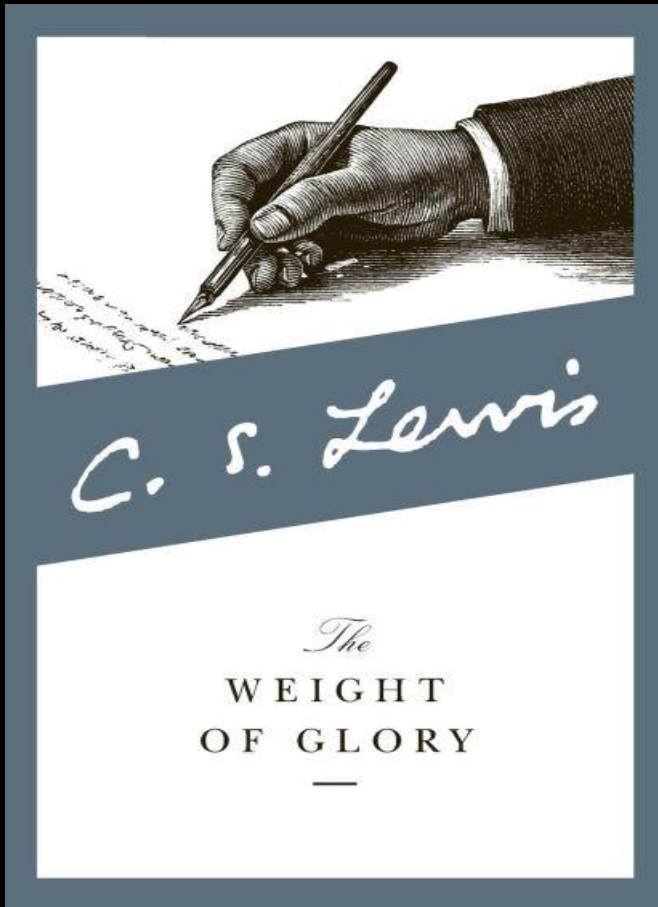
A New Commandment

2. A New Identity and Mission

“By this all people will know that you
are my disciples”

So from now on we regard **no one** from a **worldly point of view**. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer

2 Cor 5:16



There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit

.... it is thus with awe and circumspection, that we should conduct all of our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics.

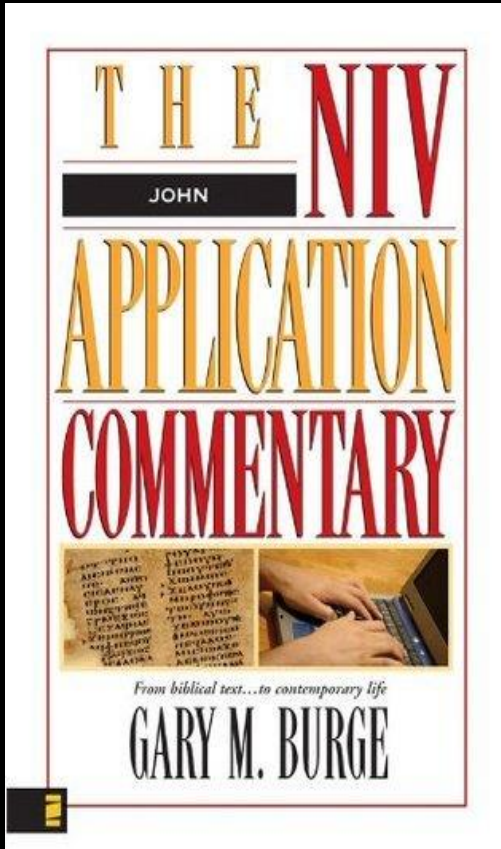
LOVE CAPTIVATES



Barbarian, Scythian, bond and free, male and female, Jew and Greek, learned and ignorant ... sat down at **one table**, and felt themselves all **one in Christ Jesus**. They were ready to break all other bonds, and to yield to the uniting forces that streamed out from his Cross. There never had been anything like it.

A **new** thing had come into the world—a **community held together by love** and not by geographical accidents or linguistic affinities, or the iron fetters of the conqueror Mankind, severed from one another and yet longing to come together, **witnessed** real love among the followers of Christ.

Alexander Maclaren



Nothing so astonishes a fractured world as a community in which **radical, faithful, genuine love** is shared among its members. There are many places you can go to find communities of shared interest. There are many places you can go to find people just like yourself, who live for sports or music or gardening or politics. But it is the mandate of the church to become a **community of love**, a circle of Christ's followers who invest in one another because Christ has invested in them, who exhibit love not based on the mutuality and attractiveness of its members, but on the **model of Christ**, who washed the feet of everyone (including Judas).

It is mainly the **deeds** of a **love** so noble that lead many to put a **brand** upon us! 'See,' they say, 'how they love one another ... see how they are ready even to die for one another.' "

Tertullian

A New Commandment

3. A New Nature

“I give to you”

“No law has ever been passed that can compel one moral being to love another, for by the very nature of it **love must be voluntary**. No one can be coerced or frightened into loving anyone”.

A W Tozer

“It is no use asking the world to ‘love one another.’ It is impossible; they are incapable of doing it. We need the **divine nature** within us before we can truly love one another”

Martin Lloyd Jones

LOVE COMMANDED



This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, **since God so loved us,** we also ought to love one another

1 John 4:10-11

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. **Abide in my love.** If you keep my commandments, you will **abide in my love**, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and **abide in his love**. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

John 15:9-11

Love Crucified – A Call

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. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another

Love Crucified – A Call

For you know the **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was **rich**, yet for your sake he became **poor**, so that you by his **poverty** might become **rich**.”

2 Cor 8:9

If anyone would come after me, let him **deny himself** and **take up his cross** and **follow me**.”

Matt 16:24

Love Captivates – A Test

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. **By this all people will know that you are my disciples**, if you have love for one another.

Love Captivates – A Test

Radical Hospitality and Diversity

Love Commanded – An Invitation

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. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Love Commanded – An Invitation

If anyone **thirsts**, let him come to me and **drink**.
Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said,
'Out of his heart will flow **rivers of living water**.'

John 7:37-38

A New Commandment

- Love Crucified

- This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us (1 John 3:16)

- Love Captivates

- Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth (1 John 3:18)

- Love Commanded

- It is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose (Phil 2:13)

I have been **crucified** with Christ,
and I no longer live, but **Christ lives in me**.

The life I live in the body,
I live by faith in the Son of God,
who **loved me** and **gave Himself** up for me

Gal 2:20