

What is the relationship between obedience to Jesus's command (vss. 12, 17) and His demonstration of love to the 12 disciples?

What is the correlation between John 13:31-38 and 15:12-17?

How did the disciples obey Jesus's command to "love one another, just as I have loved you"?

When do you struggle with loving other Christians the way Jesus loved you?

Identify ways our church would be impacted if we committed to live by obedience to Jesus's command to love other disciples as He loved us?

Who knows you are a Christian because you show *The Mark* Jesus commanded?

What does Acts 2:41-47 and 4:32-37 teach about what koinonia is?

What needs to happen for koinonia to permeate every part and person of our church family?

GOSPEL CONNECTION

"We know love by this, that He (Jesus) laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." 1 John 3:16

APPLICATION

With whom are you living in koinonia?

With whom is God calling you to live in koinonia? What needs to take place for that to happen?

MEMORY VERSE

"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do what I command you." John 15:12-14

Sermon-Based Study Guide

// June 28, 2026 //

Sermon Series: *Koinonia*
Love Lived in Community

Paul Herr
Century Baptist Church

The Mark (part 2)

John 15:12-17 & 13:31-38

If Jesus is your Savior then He is your example, and the model for you to follow, the One you imitate, and around whom you arrange your life.

Sermon available at centurybaptist.org/watch/

Community Life Group Sermon-Based Study

// June 28, 2026 //

Our desire and goal is for all who call Century Baptist their church home to be involved in a Community Life Group, Bible study, or Missional Community. We believe one of the best ways to be fed and exhorted in our faith is to interact with the Sunday sermon. This guide is a tool to facilitate that interaction to dive into the Sunday message through the study of Scripture together. If you are not in a group, we encourage you to take the step of involvement in community around your faith and the pursuit of faith in Jesus. This study guide can be used individually, however, the greatest benefit of growth in Scripture and faith comes when people are interacting together around Biblical truth, including how God is at work in their lives.

Contact Pastor Paul Herr at 701.223.0478 to learn more about sermon-based community life groups, and leading or hosting a group.

OPENING UP

What are the characteristics of a true friendship?

INTRODUCTION to *Koinonia*: Love Lived in Community

“Again and again, New Testament writers exhorted believers to engage in specific activities that would enable the body of Christ to function effectively and to grow spiritually. Frequently they used a unique word to describe this mutual and reciprocal process — the Greek word *allelon*, most frequently translated *one another*. In fact, excluding the Gospels, the word is used 58 times in the New Testament. The Apostle Paul used the word 40 times.

“When all the *one another* exhortations are studied carefully, and grouped together according to specific meanings, they can be reduced approximately 12 actions Christians are to take toward *one another* to help build up the body of Christ.” (Gene Getz, 1976)

This sermon series is built around these powerful exhortations, providing not only an understanding of what these injunctions mean, but also, practical steps of personal and corporate application of putting these exhortations into action at Century Baptist Church.

READ John 15:12-17

What was one point or statement from the message that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

What is Jesus’s commandment?

Jesus uses the Greek word *agape* (English translation *love*). What does *agape* mean?

How are the disciples to love one another?

What does Jesus state is the greatest demonstration of love?

How is Jesus defining friendship in this teaching?

How does Jesus describe the difference between friends and slaves?

Why would Jesus repeat His command in verse 17?

What is the difference between friends and slaves?

How does one interact with a friend?

How does one interact with a slave?

List examples that include Jesus’s words, actions, attitudes, and motives of His humble, sacrificial service (love) toward His disciples.