

# How to Enjoy the Fullness of Love and Unity with Other Sinful, Confused, Irritating, Opinionated Christians who Differ with Each Other on Important Stuff

**John 17:22** "And the glory which Thou hast given Me I have given to them; that they may be one, just as We are one;

<sup>23</sup> I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me.

**Matthew 22:37** And He said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

<sup>38</sup> "This is the great and foremost commandment.

<sup>39</sup> "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

<sup>40</sup> "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

Our Priorities:

1. Know, love and honor God
2. Know, love and honor one another
3. Live the great commission

Short Version:

- Love God
- Love one another
- Live the mission

**1 John 4:7** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

<sup>8</sup> The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

<sup>9</sup> By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

<sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

<sup>12</sup> No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us

... <sup>19</sup> We love, because He first loved us.

<sup>20</sup> If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

<sup>21</sup> And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

**HOW TO know, love and honor one another:**

1. Know, love and honor Jesus.
2. Befriend other sinful, confused, irritating, opinionated Christians as Jesus has befriended me
  - a. Don't judge other sinful, confused, irritating, opinionated Christians

**Romans 14:1** Now accept the one who is weak in faith, *but* not for *the purpose of* passing judgment on his opinions.

<sup>2</sup> One man has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables *only*.

<sup>3</sup> Let not him who eats regard with contempt him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats, for God has accepted him.

<sup>4</sup> Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

**b. Live with Jesus-focused conviction and respect other sinful, confused, irritating, opinionated Christians living with different Jesus-focused convictions**

<sup>5</sup> One man regards one day above another, another regards every day *alike*. Let each man be fully convinced in his own mind.

<sup>6</sup> He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup> For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself;

<sup>8</sup> for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

<sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived *again*, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

<sup>10</sup> But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.

<sup>11</sup> For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God."

<sup>12</sup> So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this-- not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.\

**c. Work for the welfare and edification of other sinful, confused, irritating, opinionated Christians**

**Romans 15:1** Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not *just* please ourselves.

<sup>2</sup> Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

<sup>3</sup> For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached Thee fell upon Me."

<sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

<sup>5</sup> Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus;

**goal**

<sup>6</sup> that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**summary**

<sup>7</sup> Wherefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.