

Message by Pastor Matt Brown
Discussion by Small Group Leadership Team

The Power of “WITH”

Part 2

If you love me, obey my commandments. John 14:15 NLT

DISCUSSION: Do you typically connect obeying Christ with loving Him or do you think of loving Him in different terms?

Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. Matthew 28:20 NLT

What are Jesus' commandments?

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| 2. | 7. |
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DISCUSSION: Were you surprised by the answer Matt gave to Jesus' commandments? Why? What are some of the things you wrote down?

What should make a Christian different is the fact the we are willing to follow any and all of the commands of Jesus, yet He gave only one.

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. John 13:34 NLT

DISCUSSION: Loving others is supposed to be natural but our sin nature makes it unnatural. Do you find it natural or unnatural to love others, especially people you don't yet know well? How is it different from loving the people you do know well? What are you resisting, the commands of Jesus or your own personality and sin nature? Are there things in your past that make it difficult to want to love others? Explain.

Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father. I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. This is my command: Love each other. John 15:5-17 NLT

DISCUSSION: What does remaining in Christ look like in your life? If you don't feel like you are, what are the first steps to make it happen?

DISCUSSION: Most of us do not have the chance to sacrifice our physical life for another like the surfer in Matt's story. What portion of your personal life could you sacrifice for another to show your love for and obedience to Christ? In what ways are you looking for opportunities each day?

All that Christ asks is that we love one another.

Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law. Romans 13:8 NLT

DISCUSSION: How are you displaying love for your fellow Christians at Sandals?

Who at Sandals are you willing to love with Christ like love?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

DISCUSSION: Share your list with the group.

I pray that this week, God would convict you to reach out to people at Sandals who have no one loving them and to be Christ in their life!

And may the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows. 1 Thessalonians 3:12 NLT