

Jesus lived and traveled with his disciples for three years. He witnessed their struggles in relating to each other, their quarrels and disputes. And, he tried to teach them the significance of their relationship to one another. However, when their time was growing short and knowing the importance of their relationship he again gave instruction to address this struggle, "yet a little while I am with you... Where I am going you cannot come. A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another..." (John 13:33, 34)

We Christians know we are supposed to "love each other." We even know Jesus said we are supposed to "love our enemies."

Underneath our vague understanding that we are to love, most of us would have to admit we struggle with Jesus new commandment. "Why do I feel a barrier between myself and that other person?" "Why is it so hard to love certain people?"

One young woman summed up her own struggle with relationships when she said, "Sure, I'd lay down my life for you. But, I don't know if I'm willing to run upstairs and get your sweater." Sacrificial love isn't very interesting or dramatic on the everyday level. In fact it's a good deal harder just because it demands constant selflessness.

Read the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5, 6, and 7 using a modern translation of the Bible. Jot down in a notebook some of the main teaching that strike you about how we should act and think toward each other.

How would these actions change and improve our relationships?

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Connecting With Each Other



Notes