



## *If you have love for one another...*

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks these prophetic words: *By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another* (Jn 13:35).

In my thirties such inclusive and theoretical statements inspired me. Then Denise, one of my colleagues, said somewhat sarcastically: "*Ok, can you come up with two or three practical quotations?*" So I came back down to earth and expanded my knowledge base.

Though St. John's Gospel has many such comprehensive passages, Christ's thoughts are always so simple and straightforward. *God is Love. God's incredible Love is manifested in Jesus. This all-encompassing Love is ours. If we believe in Christ, we respond to this Love.* Christ said: *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another* (Jn 13:34).

What does this mean for us today? I don't have simple answers. We have to decide how we are going to respond to Christ's teachings. How can we purposefully incorporate them into our lives to support our ideals and optimism? If we are to love others as God wishes, here are some proposals:

- We should pray for and encourage one another.
- We should welcome others unconditionally and remain flexible as we pursue our ideals.
- We should support and accompany others, listen to them, and be patient.
- We should share our wealth and time efficiently and ensure that our charitable works involve and benefit the entire community.
- We should be aware of how structural changes can affect *community*. This means we must become informed and possibly politically active to promote and achieve social justice.

Lord, this is quite an undertaking. Thankfully we have you as our model.

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*God Keeps His Promise : Possibilities Abound...*