

A NEW COMMANDMENT

By Pastor Greg Hooker

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another” (John 13:34).

Some of my favorite TV shows is that of old westerns – Bonanza, Have Gun Will Travel, The Rifleman, etc. You know; the kind they don’t make anymore because society is too sophisticated to watch them! Call me old fashion, but give me a good cowboy and Indian shoot-out over anything Holly Wood produces now and I’ll be happy! There is something about seeing those timeworn shows that transports you to a different time, a diverse way of life, a time of simplicity - yet hardship, a time of bandits, bank robbers and good guys. It was a time when your neighbor watched your back instead of inserting a seven inch dagger in it! There was friendship and love among family and neighbors that manifested into action!

Just prior to the ascension of Christ into heaven, Jesus gave this admonition, *“...love one another; as I have loved you...”* Wow! In those eight simple words Christ revealed the key to world peace – love! Not mere, pointless words, but words that translate into action! Christ loved us with a sacrificial love as demonstrated when offering up His body as atonement for our sins. In addition, Jesus daily revealed His love to individuals, as well as families. He spoke words of kindness and understanding while healing the sick and even raising the dead.

While we cannot live up to the love Jesus exhibited, we can, however, show love to others by praying, giving of our time and talents and lending a helping hand when possible. *“Love one another; as I have loved you.”*

Dear Lord, empower us with your love that we may shine forth unto others. Give us the strength to love as Christ modeled; lending our time, talents and treasures to those in need. Open our hearts and fill them with loving kindness to be poured out upon our friends, family and those destined to cross our daily paths.

In Jesus name, your son, Greg – Amen.