



Shelby Christian Church

FOLLOWING JESUS: CARING FOR EACH OTHER

ACTS 2:46, JOHN 13:31-35, * 5/03/2026

The call to follow Jesus is a call to an authentic demonstration of love for other people.

Every person manages a wide range of relationships—our relationship with Christ, with ourselves, with the church, with unbelievers, and even with things like our attitude, priorities, and time. Of all these areas, which relationship do you find yourself investing in the most, and why?

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 2:46

What does “day by day” suggest about their commitment to community? Why do you think they met both in the temple and in their homes? What is the significance of “breaking bread” in this context? How would you define “glad and sincere hearts” in practical terms? What does this verse teach about the relationship between worship and fellowship?

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ JOHN 13:31-35

Does it surprise you that Jesus commanded us to love? Why or why not? Why is living in community with other believers essential if we want to grow in Christlike love? And what exactly is “new” about Jesus’ command to love one another?

The instruction to love our neighbors wasn’t new—God had already given that command in Leviticus 19:18. By the time Jesus spoke the words in John 13:34–35, He had already identified love for God and love for neighbor as the greatest commandments (Matthew 22:34–40). He had even taught His followers to love their enemies (Matthew 5:43–48). So what made this command “new”? The answer is found in His words: “Just as I have loved you.”

What did Jesus mean when He told His disciples to love one another the way He loved them? How does this kind of love differ from the world’s understanding of love? What is the connection between your relationship with God and your relationships with others? What qualities of God’s love should shape every relationship in your life? Why is love central to all Christian relationships? Do your relationships draw you closer to Jesus or pull you away—and how are you contributing to that direction?

APPLICATION

How consistent are you in gathering with other believers? What would it look like for you to pursue more regular (even daily) connection with others in your faith community? How can your home become a place of fellowship or ministry? What keeps you from experiencing deeper joy and sincerity in community?

Why must the kind of love Jesus demonstrated be fundamental in our group?

What would community look like if it's not?

What things could we do to make our group more caring and loving?

What needs to change about the way you love others so that you might be a better witness for Christ?

PRAYER