

“I am writing to remind you, dear friends, that we should love one another. This is not a new commandment, but one we have had from the beginning. Love means doing what God has commanded us, and he has commanded us to love one another, just as you heard from the beginning.” 2 John 1:5-6 NLT

[lectio] // 2 JOHN 1:1-13

listen to the text by reading out loud slowly and repeat up to 3x if desired

THIS IS NOT NEW! John writes to the churches. Jesus commanded it from the beginning. LOVE like Christ LOVES you! The question becomes, “who do I love like that?” Everyone? Believers? Haters? God haters? How did Christ love his own, Israelites? How did Christ love immigrants (Samaritans)? How did Christ love religious leaders? How did Christ love Romans and non-believers? He loved them all, but very differently. His own, with tenderness. Immigrants with compassion (often making them the hero of the moment). Religious leaders with confrontational truth to shake and break their hard hearts. Romans and in-believers with questions of truth, to stir up their thinking. And his own disciples with precision and directness. He was not easy on those closest to him. He created growth opportunities to have them exercise their faith and understanding of who he was. His own disciples saw EVERYTHING he did and still had a difficult time believing in the moment. It wasn't until after that they fully grasped what he truly is and had come to accomplish. So he loved all, but different with each group, even with each person.

[oratio]

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

Neither can I love all people the same. I need your Holy Spirit to help me love to their specific need. To be gracious, contrary, inquisitive, merciful, kind, playful or confrontational. Like Christ loves me- you do so in many of those ways. I can love those you bring across my path with the same urgency, but approach them with different perspectives.

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root