**SERMON** **Colossians 3:14-15 Practical Love in the Family of God**

**Practical love** shown in

**peaceful relationships** must be our

**priority** in the body of Christ.

**1. Practical love must in intentional.**

**2. Practical love is a command, not a suggestion.**

**John 15:12, 17**: This is my **commandment**, thatyou **love one another as I have loved you.** “These things **I command you,** so that you will **love one another.**

**Matthew 5:44**: Love your enemies.

**Matthew 22:39**: You shall love your neighbor… as yourself.’

**John 13:34-35**: A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

**Romans 13:8, 10**: Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

**1 Corinthians 13:13-14:1**: So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

**1 Corinthians 16:14**: Let all that you do be done in love.

**Galatians 5:6**: For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

**Galatians 5:13b-14**: Through love serve one another.

For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

**Galatians 5:22**: But the fruit of the Spirit is love….

**Ephesians 5:1-2**: Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, **as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us**

**Philippians 1:9**: And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment…

**Col 3:14** And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

**1 Thessalonians 3:12**: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you…

**1 John 4:19:**  **We love because he first loved us.**

**3. Understanding biblical ‘love’ fuels our practical love for one another.**

Practical love for one another:

 is a self-sacrificing, (Eph 5:2)

 caring commitment which (1 Cor 13:7)

 is made known (1 John 3:18)

 by seeking their highest good. (Col 3:17,23; 1 Cor 10:31)

**4. Practical love is what binds and unites us as a church.**