

## LOVING ONE ANOTHER

In John chapter 13, verses 34 and 35, Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."

Now, once upon a time, a little boy was told by his doctor that he could save his sister's life by giving her some blood. The six-year-old girl was near death, the victim of a disease from which the boy had made a marvelous recovery two years earlier. Her only chance for restoration was a blood transfusion from someone who had previously conquered the illness. Since the two children had the same rare blood type, the boy was the ideal donor.

"Johnny, would you like to give your blood for Mary?" the doctor asked.

The boy hesitated. His lower lip started to tremble. Then he smiled, and said, "Sure, Doc. I'll give my blood for my sister."

Soon the two children were wheeled into the operating room -- Mary, pale and thin; Johnny, robust and the picture of health. Neither spoke, but when their eyes met, Johnny grinned.

As his blood siphoned into Mary's veins, one could almost see new life come into her tired body. The ordeal was almost over when Johnny's brave little voice broke the silence, "Say Doc, when do I die?"

It was only then that the doctor realized what the moment of hesitation, the trembling of the lip, had meant earlier. Little Johnny actually thought that in giving his blood to his sister he was giving up his life! And in that brief moment, he had made his great decision!

Now... I'm not going to ask you to give up your lives today. But I am going to ask you to perform an act of love! A simple act ... but one that may have far reaching consequences.

Jesus has commanded us to love one another. And in John chapter 14, verse 15, He said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command."

So... since we do love Him, we are committed to loving one another as He commanded!

But, we cannot love one another, unless we know one

another!

And, with new people joining our fellowship all the time, we cannot effectively know one another without making a special effort to help new people get to know us and to help us to get to know the new people.

One of the mechanisms we can use is our "Loving One Another" binder. Many of us are in there. If you're not, please get your sheet filled-out and join us.

If you've lost your sheet, or if you never got one, there are more in the box on the table just outside the doors in back. Take one with you when you leave.

Thank you!