

THE 11TH COMMANDMENT

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

John 13:34-35

"A new commandment I give you; Love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."

COMFORT ONE ANOTHER

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-8

"Therefore, comfort and encourage one another with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4:18

TO COMFORT ONE ANOTHER IS TO...

- 1) Come alongside someone when they are **DISTRESSED**
- 2) Respond to someone's hurts with **WORDS, FEELINGS AND ACTIONS**
- 3) Hurt with their **HURTS**

"You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you." Matthew 5:4 (MSG)

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Matthew 5:4 (NIV)

What causes us to mourn and hurt?

Jesus said, *"In this world you will have trouble."* John 16:33

The question is not **IF**

The only questions of trouble are **WHEN WILL THEY COME?** and **WHAT WILL YOU DO?**

The antidote for mourning is always the same...**COMFORT ONE ANOTHER**

"He comforts us in our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us." 2 Corinthians 1:4

TO COMFORT LIKE JESUS...

- 1) You must be sensitive to **OTHERS' HURTS**

"And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him." Mark 1:41

"Three of Job's friend heard of all the trouble that had fallen on him...and went together to Job to keep him company and comfort him." Job 2:11

Learning to **PAY ATTENTION**

- 2) You must be willing to enter their **PHYSICAL** world
"Martha heard Jesus was coming..." John 11:20

"Then they sat with him on the ground. Seven days and nights they sat there without saying a word. They could see how rotten he felt, how deeply he was suffering." Job 2:13

The ministry of **PRESENCE AND TOUCH**

- 3) You also enter their **EMOTIONAL** world
"Jesus wept." John 11:35

"When they first caught sight of him, they couldn't believe what they saw—they hardly recognized him! They cried out in lament, ripped their robes, and dumped dirt on their heads as a sign of their grief."
Job 2:12

Responding with **EMPATHY**

- 4) You **LISTEN** more and **TALK** less

Some responses are not comforting...

"I've had all I can take of your talk. What bunch of miserable comforters!" Job 16:2

Some responses do comfort...

"Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth. Say only what helps, each word a gift." Ephesians 4:29