

**Wisdom Not Worry**  
**Tuesday, June 30, 2020**

**John 13:34**

If I counted correctly, today's devotional marks the 75<sup>th</sup> entry since we began the *Wisdom Not Worry* journey together on March 16, 2020. If nothing else, it is evidence to me of just how long we've been in pandemic mode. As I speak to many of you, the most common refrain I hear is, "This is getting really old!"

Indeed, months of confinement to your care-center rooms, restrictions on social gatherings, church services unlike anything we've experienced before, reports of those we know contracting the virus, deepening political divide on how best to respond – "To wear a mask or not to wear a mask"- and perhaps worst of all, the absence of any clear sign of an end in sight has become plain wearisome! As patience wears thin and irritability lies just a scratch below the surface, may I encourage us all with the call of Christ Jesus: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so also you should love one another" (John 13:34).

Loved ones, consider daily the love of Christ for you and then make the most of every opportunity to love others in the same way.

The Love of Christ is described by Paul in this way:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres"  
(1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

This love has been poured into your heart (Romans 5:5). Has His love spilled out of you on to those around you? Not sure? Try this: Replace the word "love" in the 1 Corinthians 13 passage with your name. Will this accurately describe your attitude and actions today? The more you reflect upon and receive the love of Christ for you, the more others will experience the love of Christ through you.

Grateful,  
Pastor Ben