

## Sermon Title: Love one another

- Opening Scripture Readings: Acts 10:44-End; John 15:9-17
- Context of Peter's Encounter:
  - Preaching to Gentiles in Cornelius' house.
  - Holy Spirit falls on Gentiles, surprising Jewish Christians.
  - Early church as a Jewish movement, debates on Gentile inclusion.
- Peter's Revelation and Its Implications:
  - Vision: "God has made all things clean."
  - Inclusion of Gentiles signifies dissolution of human systems before God.
- Jesus' Commandment of Love:
  - "Love one another as I have loved you."
  - Danger of pride within the church, separating 'us' from 'everyone else.'
- Integration of Belief and Practice:
  - Kierkegaard's view: Christianity is lived, not just taught.
  - Faith expressed through actions: service, justice, forgiveness.
- The Genius of Jesus' Commandment:
  - Love itself is the framework for Christian living.
  - Contrasted with corrupt use of Old Testament law.
- Saint Augustine's Perspective:
  - "Love and do what you will."
  - Living out love as the essence of Christian faith.
- Conclusion and Call to Action:
  - Service to the Lord extends beyond the church building.
  - Gathering for worship empowers believers to live out Christ's love in the world.

## Questions

1. How does Peter's experience with Cornelius challenge traditional notions of purity and separation in religious communities? How does this relate to the broader theme of inclusion in the early Christian church?
2. The sermon mentions the dissolution of human systems by grace and the Holy Spirit. What are some examples of systems or barriers in today's society that may hinder inclusivity and equality in the Christian community?
3. The sermon emphasises the danger of pride in faith and the tendency to separate oneself from others. How can modern Christians avoid falling into this trap and cultivate a spirit of humility and inclusivity?
4. Kierkegaard's quote suggests that Christianity is not merely about doctrine but about living out one's faith. How can believers today bridge the gap between belief and action in their daily lives, particularly in terms of loving others as Christ loved?
5. Reflecting on Jesus' commandment to love one another as he loved us, what are some practical ways individuals or communities can demonstrate this love in their interactions with others, both within and outside the church?
6. The sermon contrasts Jesus' commandment of love with the Old Testament law, suggesting that love itself is the framework for Christian living. How does this perspective reshape our understanding of Christian ethics and morality?