"If you love Me, you will keep my commandments."

John 13:15 covers a lot of ground. In fact, it covers all of life. But some people, even some genuine Christians, act like the verse is just not there. Or perhaps their spin is more like, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments, *when I like them, or when it's convenient, or when I think they might be appropriate to the situation I'm facing."*

Actually, we know down deep in our hearts exactly what the verse is saying and what we *should do,* but we search our logic (or illogic) in an attempt to find an *out,* an *exception* an *escape* that will salve our consciences when we just don't want to keep His commandments.

Three passages come to mind that we sometimes wish we could ignore:

Matthew 5:43-46, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and Hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you?"
(We need no explanation here, just deep, tough, self-discipline.)

Matt 6:14-15, "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will not forgive your transgressions."
(We need no explanation here, just deep, tough, self-discipline.)

Romans 12:14, Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse."
(We need no explanation here, just deep, tough, self-discipline. ***Wait… haven't I heard that before?****)*

From personal relationships to politics, God's people need to remember these and many other passages. If someone sues me and gets my shirt, I should give him my coat also. Why? *Because God's plan is for me to love him enough to bring Him to Jesus, not hate him enough to ignore God's word.*

As one old man said in a church leadership meeting three decades ago, *"That's not the meat of the word, that's the gristle!"* May we love Jesus enough to keep His commandments and love others enough to show them the way to Jesus rather than show them my revenge. When Paul was in prison in Rome, the whole Praetorian guard learned about Jesus. When he and Silas were in prison in Philippi, they taught Jesus to the jailer and he was converted to Jesus, (Acts 16:25-34). *What would you do? What will you do? Do you love Jesus enough to keep His commandments?*

Ray Wallace