

Love that Pours Itself Out Fifth Week of Easter Friday, May 24, 2019 Acts
15:22-31; **Jn 15:12-17** (The standard to see whether we are really being faithful.)

“This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.”

The word “love” is used in many different ways, covers a whole spectrum of relating. It has in common of course **some kind of binding or unity**. Beyond that, what people call **love differs widely**.

Even biblical authors differ widely about the nature of love. For example, in the Old Testament God is called jealous. Now there may be some way of justifying that, but **the God revealed in Christ could never be called jealous**; his love could never be called jealous, because jealous love is possessive, and Jesus was anything but possessive. He was always pouring himself out, giving away, letting go of. That was the love he revealed, which of course came to a climax on the cross.

So when he says, “Love one another as I love you,” he is referring to that kind of love, this **love that pours itself out**, that gives itself away. So when we hear this we have to keep in mind what he is saying. And **we need to distinguish in ourselves what might be other, in this case then counterfeit forms of love**, and they abound. If this is the measure or if you want to call it **the standard of what it is to be a disciple**, then we have to actually look at it and **compare all other kinds of love to it to see whether we are really being faithful**.