



THE BEST NEWS EVER – Part 6

OBSERVERS REPORT SURPRISING TRENDS

They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love

The Trend toward Walking Like Jesus

1 John 2:3-6

³We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. ⁴The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵But if anyone obeys his word, **God's love is truly made complete in him.** This is how we know we are in him: ⁶**Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.**

The Trend toward Loving Fellow Disciples

John 13:34-35

³⁴"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this **all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.**"

The Trend toward Loving Our Neighbors

Mark 12:29-31

²⁹"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹The second is this: **'Love your neighbor as yourself.'** There is no commandment greater than these."

The Trend toward Loving Our Enemies

Matthew 5:43-48

⁴³"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴But I tell you: **Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,** ⁴⁵that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷**And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?** ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Praying for Observable Trends

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being **transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory,** which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

O Spirit of the Lord— You who raises the dead, You who works change,
You who overturns and rebuilds and renews,
You who brings freedom and gives hope—
Transform our hearts and minds.
Give us new insight with each new day,
Move us toward righteousness with each and every step we take.
Fill us with light every time we catch glimpse of your grace.
Deepen our faith as root after root our hearts are established in your Word.
Lighten our load as we share your yoke.
Shape us and lift us and teach us until with ever-increasing glory
We become like Jesus. From love, to love, to greater love, to greater love,
Through Christ, we pray. Amen.