

The Eighth Most Important Verse in the Bible

John 15:12-13 & 1 John 3:16

New King James Version (Recommended for memorization).

This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. — By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

Amplified Bible

This is My commandment: that you love one another [just] as I have loved you. No one has greater love [no one has shown stronger affection] than to lay down (give up) his own life for his friends. – By this we come to know (progressively to recognize, to perceive, to understand) the [essential] love: that He laid down His [own] life for us; and we ought to lay [our] lives down for [those who are our] brothers [in Him].

The Message (paraphrase by Eugene H. Peterson)

This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. – This is how we've come to understand and experience love: Christ sacrificed his life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially for our fellow believers, and not just be out for ourselves.

The Speaking of Christ (paraphrase by Daniel Yordy – written AFTER doing the present study.)

I speak Myself into you, My beloved, the creative words of My Father, which I Myself fulfill living as you, "Love one another in exactly the same way that I love you." There is no greater love, no greater revelation of the Father, than for you and I to lay down our lives, to set forth our souls, for our friends. By this we know love, by this we see God, because Jesus laid down His life for us. Then, as He fulfills Gethsemane through us, we also lay down our lives, set forth our souls, the story-telling of our lives, for our brothers and sisters in Christ.