### What is our responsibility to fellow Christians?

PASTOR JONATHAN WILEY • MATTHEW 18



#### Forgive One Another

(Matthew 18:21–35; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13)



Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventyseven times."

"Therefore, the Kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants."

"As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him."

"Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt."

"The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.'"

"The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt, and let him go."

"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded."

"His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'"

"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt."

"When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened."

"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.'"

"'Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'"

"In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed."

"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

#### Bear With One Another

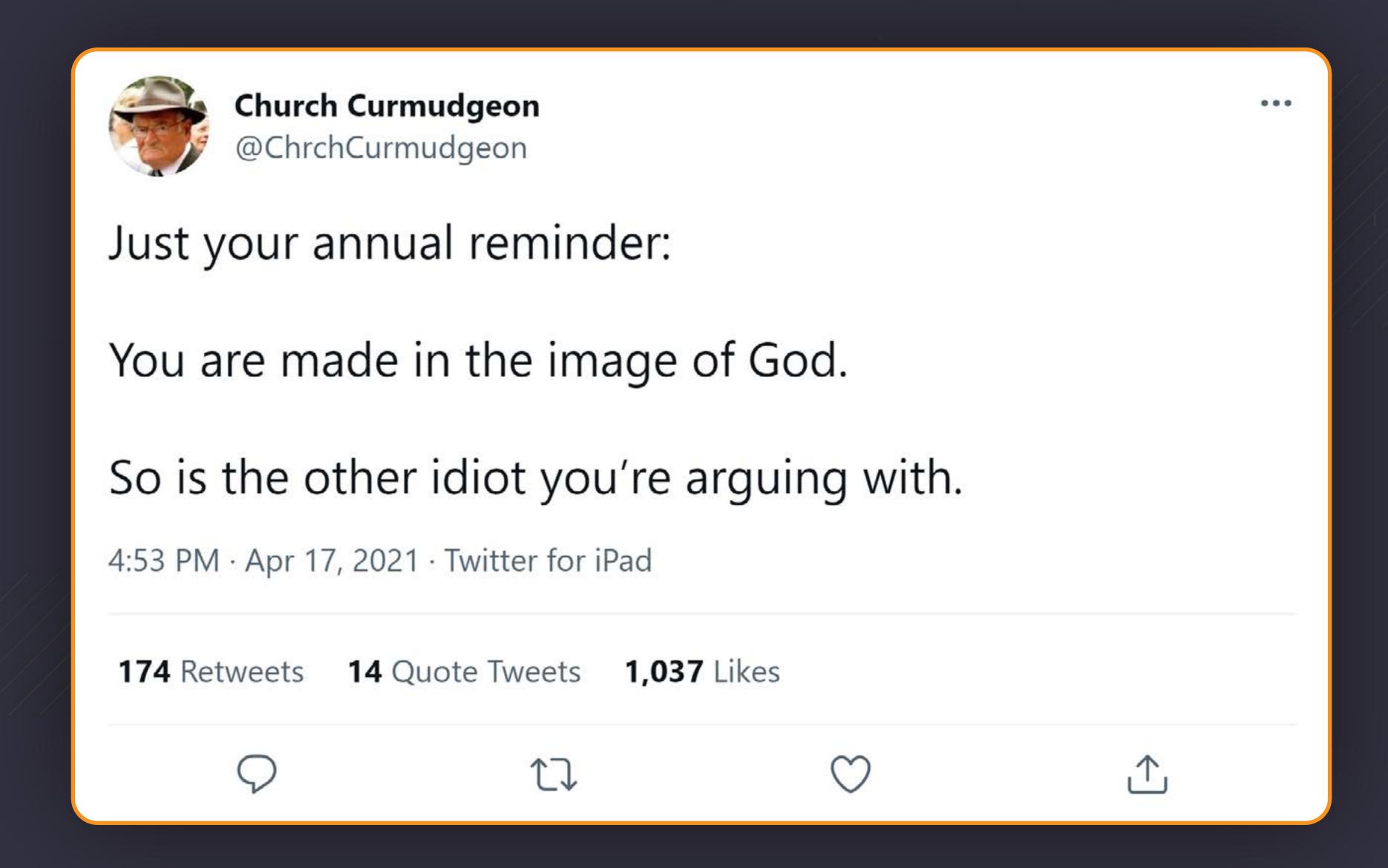
(Romans 15:1–7; Ephesians 4:2,3; Colossians 3:12–15)



We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.

Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

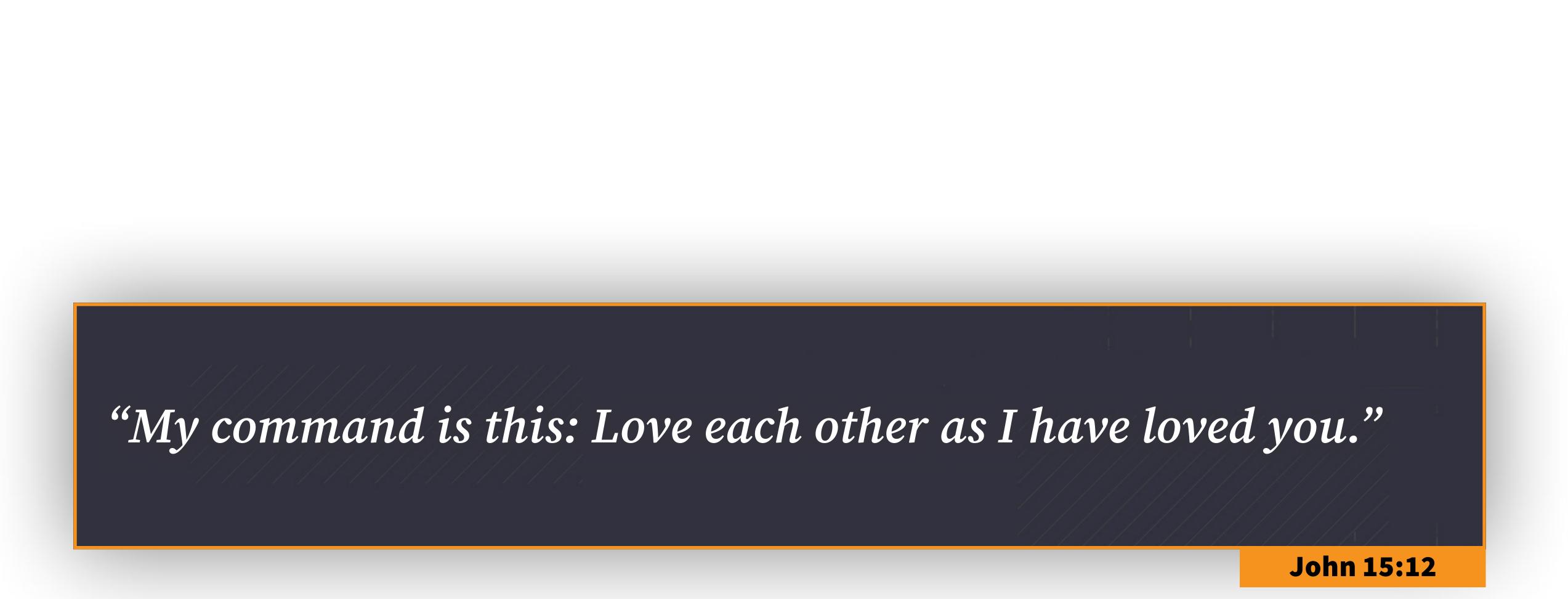


Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

#### Love One Another

(John 13:34, 15:12,13; Romans 12:10; 1 Peter 1:22, 4:8)





"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

# Why? "That the World May Know..." (John 13:34,35, 17:20–23; 2 Corinthians 5:11–21)

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message,"

"that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in Us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me."

"I have given them the glory that You gave Me, that they may be one as We are One:"

"I in them and You in Me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me."

Confess your sin and seek forgiveness.

Focus on what God wants to do in your own heart before you seek to fix others.

Recognize who the real enemy is.

Use wisdom to rightly prioritize the issues.

Listen! Understand before you conclude.

Realize you can be right or win an argument but destroy a relationship and your testimony.

Be quick to say "I'm sorry," "Please forgive me," and "I forgive you."

Look to Jesus as your example and to the Holy Spirit as your helper.

## Our unity and love are a distinctive fragrance that identify us with Jesus and proclaim His glory.

