

Honor Our Heroes

John 15:12-17 (NIV)

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

¹³Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.

1. REAL HEROES DEMONSTRATE LOVE FOR OTHERS.

v. 12 *"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."*

v. 13a *"Greater love has no one than this..."*

v. 17 *"This is my command: Love each other."*

- Most all heroes are focused on others.
- We show our love for others in how we treat them.

Philippians 2:3-4 (NKJV)

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

- Jesus proved His love by thinking of us instead of Himself.

1 Thessalonians 5:10 (CEV)

Christ died for us, so that we could live with him, whether we are alive or dead when he comes.

2. REAL HEROES DISPLAY TREMENDOUS COURAGE.

v. 13 *"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."*

- Heroes are willing to put themselves in harm's way.
- We must be willing to act on the behalf of others in spite of our fears.

2 Timothy 1:7 (CEV)

God's Spirit doesn't make cowards out of us. The Spirit gives us power, love, and self-control.

- Jesus displayed his courage by dying even for those who don't know Him yet.

Romans 5:7-8 (NIV)

Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

3. REAL HEROES DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

v. 16b *"...but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last."*

- Heroes have a purpose greater than themselves.
- Work that we do for the Kingdom of God will last forever.

1 Corinthians 15:50 (CEV)

My friends, I want you to know that our bodies of flesh and blood will decay. This means that they cannot share in God's kingdom, which lasts forever.

- Jesus' sacrificial death has made a difference in our eternity.

Hebrews 2:14-15 (CEV)

We are people of flesh and blood. That is why Jesus became one of us. He died to destroy the devil, who had power over death. ¹⁵But He also died to rescue all of us who live each day in fear of dying.