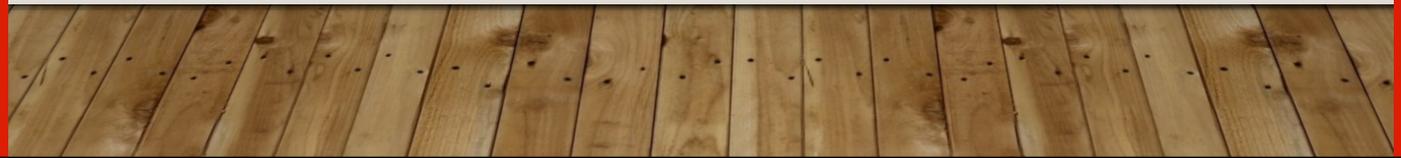
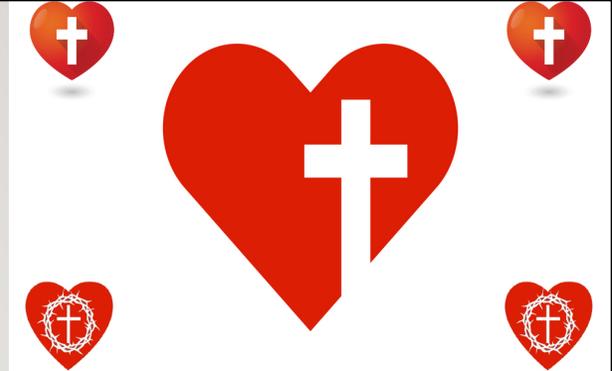
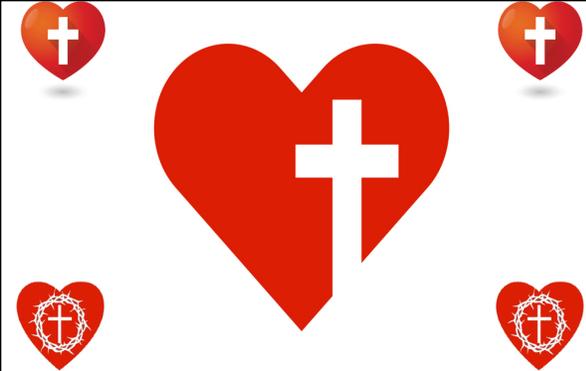


THE SHAPE OF LOVE: THE CROSS

JOHN 15:9-14 BIBLE STUDY

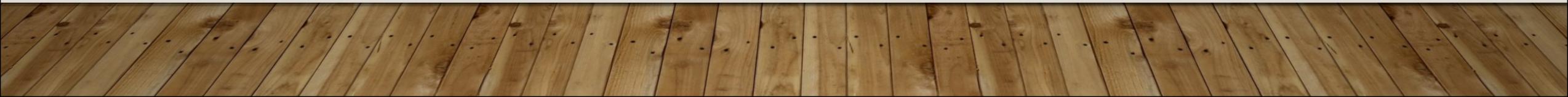
DANNY SCOTTON, JR.





IF YOU LOVE ME...

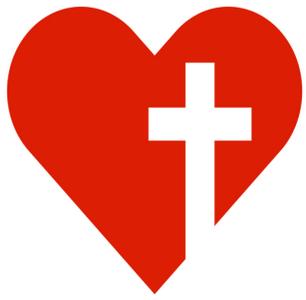
- 15 Then she said to him, “How can you say, ‘**I love you,**’ when you **won’t confide in me**? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven’t told me the secret of your great strength.” 16 With such **nagging** she prodded him day after day until he was **sick to death of it**. (Jdg 16:15-16, NIV)



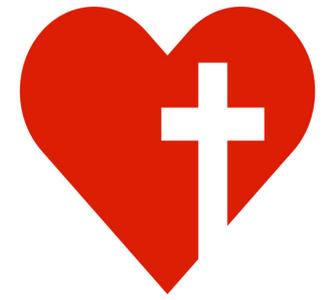
The header features a central grey rectangle with the text 'THE GREATEST COMMANDMENTS: LOVE'. This rectangle is flanked by white areas containing decorative icons: a large red heart with a white cross, and four smaller red hearts with white crosses in the corners. A red horizontal line is positioned below the grey rectangle.

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENTS: LOVE

- 35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:
36 “Teacher, which is the **greatest commandment** in the Law?”
37 Jesus replied: “ ‘**Love** the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ [Dt 6:5] 38 This is the **first and greatest** commandment. 39 And the **second** is like it: ‘**Love** your neighbor as yourself.’ [Lev 19:18] 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these **two** commandments.” (Mt 22:35-50, NIV)



CONTEXT: VINE AND BRANCHES

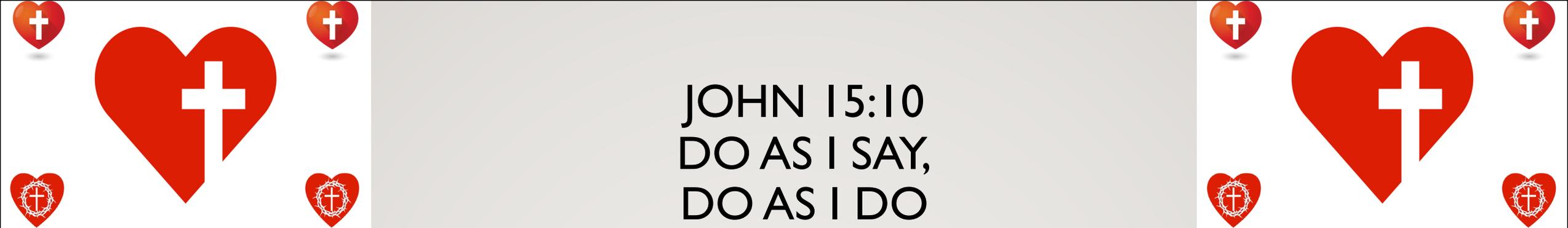


- 5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you **remain** in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; **apart from me you can do nothing.** 6 If you do **not remain** in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, **thrown into the fire** and burned. (Jn 15:5-6, NIV)

The header features a white background with a large red heart containing a white cross in the center. This central heart is surrounded by four smaller red hearts, each containing a white cross, positioned at the top-left, top-right, bottom-left, and bottom-right corners. A thin red horizontal line is located below the white header area.

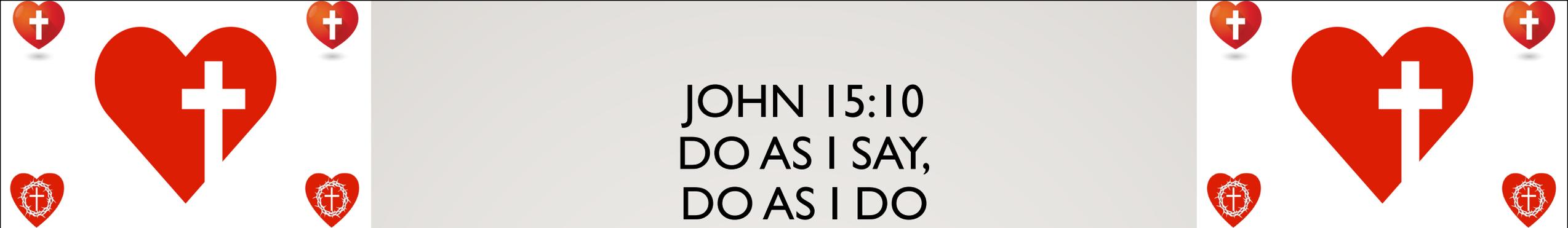
JOHN 15:9
LOVED PEOPLE
LOVE PEOPLE

- As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. (Jn 15:9, AT)

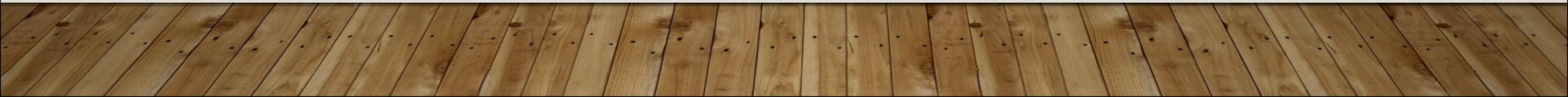
The header features a light gray background with a central white box containing the text. On either side of this box, there are four red hearts: one large heart with a white cross in the center, and three smaller hearts (two with white crosses and one with a white cross inside a wreath).

JOHN 15:10
DO AS I SAY,
DO AS I DO

- If you **keep my commands**, you will **remain in my love**, as I have kept the commands of my father and remain in His love (Jn 15:10, AT)
- “My **food**,” said Jesus, “is to **do the will of him who sent me** and to finish his work.” (Jn 4:34, NIV)
- For I have come down from heaven **not to do my will** but to do **the will of him who sent me**. (Jn 6:38, NIV)
- 30 I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world [Satan] is coming. He has no hold over me, 31 but he comes so that the world may learn that I **love the Father** and **do exactly what my Father has commanded me**. Come now; let us leave.” (Jn 14:30-31, NIV)

The header features a light gray background with decorative elements. On the left and right sides, there are four red hearts: two larger hearts with a white cross in the center, and two smaller hearts with a white cross and a wreath. The text is centered in a white box.

JOHN 15:10
DO AS I SAY,
DO AS I DO

- “If you **love me, keep my commands.**” (Jn 14:15, NIV)
 - Whoever has my commands and **keeps them** is the one who **loves** me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.” (Jn 14:21, NIV)
 - 23 Jesus replied, “Anyone who **loves me will obey my teaching.** My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does **not love me will not obey my teaching.** These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. (Jn 14:23-24, NIV)
- 
- The bottom of the slide features a wooden floor texture with vertical planks.

The header features a white background with a large red heart containing a white cross in the center. This central heart is surrounded by four smaller red hearts, each containing a white cross, positioned at the top-left, top-right, bottom-left, and bottom-right corners. The text "JOHN 15:10" and "HE FIRST LOVED US" is centered in a black, sans-serif font.

JOHN 15:10
HE FIRST LOVED US

- But God **demonstrates** his own **love for us** in this: While we were **still sinners**, **Christ died for us.** (Rom 5:8, NIV)
- For, in this way, God **loved** the world: that He gave the one-of-a-kind Son, so that everyone who [continually] believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. (Jn 3:16, AT)

The header features a light gray background with a central white box containing the text. On either side of this box, there are four red hearts: one large heart with a white cross in the center, and three smaller hearts (one with a cross, one with a cross, and one with a cross) arranged around it.

JOHN 15:10
FOR YOUR OWN
GOOD

- 28 And we know that in all things **God works for the good** of those **who love him**, who have been called **according to his purpose**. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. (Rom 8:28-29, NIV)

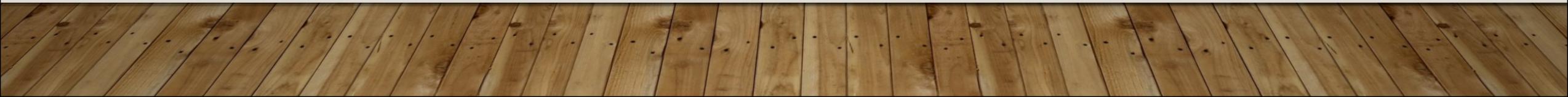
The header features a white background with a large red heart containing a white cross in the center. This central heart is surrounded by four smaller red hearts, each containing a white cross, positioned at the top-left, top-right, bottom-left, and bottom-right corners. The text "JOHN 15:11" and "JOY-FULL" is centered in the white area.

JOHN 15:11
JOY-FULL

- I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be made full (Jn 15:11, AT)
- 8 The precepts of the LORD are right, giving **joy** to the heart.
The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. (Ps 19:8, NIV)

The header features a light gray background with a large red heart containing a white cross in the center. This central heart is surrounded by four smaller red hearts, each containing a white cross, positioned at the top-left, top-right, bottom-left, and bottom-right corners. The text "JOHN 15:12-14" and "REAL FRIENDS" is centered in the gray area.

JOHN 15:12-14 REAL FRIENDS

- 12 This is my command: that you should love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this: that one give up one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. (Jn 15:12-14, AT)
 - I 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**. (Jn 15:15, NIV)
 - The LORD would speak to Moses **face to face**, as one speaks to a **friend**. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent. (Ex 33:11, NIV)
- 
- The bottom portion of the slide shows a wooden floor with vertical planks, suggesting a church or a warm, rustic setting.

The header features a white background with a large red heart containing a white cross in the center. This central heart is surrounded by four smaller red hearts, each containing a white cross, positioned at the top-left, top-right, bottom-left, and bottom-right corners. The text "TRUE LOVE COMES FULL CIRCLE" is centered in a black, sans-serif font.

TRUE LOVE
COMES FULL CIRCLE

- 22 But the **fruit** of the **Spirit** is **love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.** Against such things there is no law. (Gal 5:22-23, NIV)
- **We love because he first loved us.** (1 Jn 4:19, NIV)