

Embracing God's Love as Christ's Disciple



John 13:33-35

- Jesus was fully aware that His time on earth was drawing to an end. He had spent much of His time teaching, equipping, and preparing the disciples for both His death and resurrection.
- He had just given them a powerful lesson on humility as He washed His disciples' feet and even the one who would betray Him. (vs. 2-14)
- Jesus gives His disciples a new commandment on love (vs. 34). What made this moment so different and very significant?
 1. Jesus would soon depart and ascend to heaven. (vs. 33, Acts 1:9-11)
 2. Jesus knew that after He departed, the disciples would need the Holy Spirit's presence in their lives. (John 16:7, 13-16)
 3. Jesus knew that after He departed His disciples would also need each other. (vs. 34)
 - a. The new command meant that the disciples were to love each other as Jesus Christ loved them.
 - b. The disciples were to live out Christ's command to "love one another."
 - c. Jesus never used the word "demand" – The Scripture doesn't quote Jesus saying, "A new demand I give you, that you love one another.
 - d. Jesus "commands" by the life He lives and the love He unconditionally gives. (John 3:16, 15:12-14, Romans 5:8)
 4. Jesus's "new command" meant that His disciples were to demonstrate His love toward one another. (John 15:12-14)
 - a. The disciples were commanded to reciprocate that same "agape love" that God had shown them through Jesus Christ to each other. (John 15:12-14)
- The word "agape" means unconditional, selfless, and sacrificial love. It describes God's love for people.
 - b. The disciples were commanded by Christ to genuinely, affectionately, and passionately care about the well-being of each other.
- 5. Jesus's new command to "love one another" was not a new suggestion or option. The disciples were to fully obey His command. (vs. 34)

- a. There is a difference in “liking” someone and choosing to “love” someone.
- To “like” someone can be characterized by feelings of admiration, high regard, and respect. But, those feelings can fade over time based upon a person’s negative actions and attitude.
 - To “love” someone cannot be characterized by feelings alone. To “love” someone may or may not have any feelings whether emotional or physical attached to it.
 - Love is a choice. It is a decision that a person chooses to give regardless of their feelings toward another person.
 - One of the Fruit of the Holy Spirit is love. The Holy Spirit can produce these Nine-character traits of Jesus Christ in our lives as disciples. (Galatians 5:22)
 - The Purpose: To teach us the significance of Christ’s love for us, our neighbor and each other.
 - The Goal: For every true disciple to embrace Christ’s love and begin to demonstrate it toward one another.
 - The Spiritual Principles: Authority, Obedience, Agreement, Unconditional love, Faith, Grace