

Love One Another

John 13:34–35, NASB 1995

“34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (emphasis added)

Background

Jesus meets with a smaller group, possibly only the twelve disciples, in a private setting. Before eating a meal, Jesus performs the work of a lowly servant, washing the feet of the disciples. He explains that this is an object lesson [*goal*]. Their Lord is willing to serve in humility, so they are obligated to do the same. Jesus also predicts His impending betrayal, quietly telling Judas to leave and complete His conspiracy. However, the disciples didn't realize what was happening. Peter foolishly brags about his loyalty. Jesus responds with a cutting prediction: Peter will deny his relationship to Christ three times in the next few hours. (BibleRef.com modified)

Context

John 13:34–35 contains one of the most powerful commands given to every Christian: love for others is the defining sign of faith for believers, which marks the life of a “*true believer*.” Jesus frames this as a new commandment, using His own example as the standard. In giving this charge, Jesus once again predicts His impending death and departure from earth. (BibleRef.com modified)

Q1 is this actually a new commandment?

Q2 “Even as I have loved you.” How did Jesus love us? (first hyperlinked lesson)

Q3 Why is it so important to love? (second hyperlinked lesson)

Q4 In this passage it is referring to loving other believers, but aren't we also commanded to love our neighbors (Mark 12:28–34; Leviticus 19:18). Who are your neighbors? (Luke 10:25–37)

Additional verses and reading: Matthew 22:36–40; John 13:2–5; John 13:12–17; 1 John 3:11–18; 1 John 4:7–5:4.

- <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-74-loving-jesus-loved-john-1331-38>
- <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-19-why-we-must-love-1-john-47-11>



Put this into action:

Self-sacrificing love is the new type of love and standard for which genuine believers would be known for. It would not be that they attended church, belonged to a large church, were in leadership roles at church, nor the material things they had. Biblically, love is defined as “the willingness” to put into action a love which sacrifices for others. Sacrificial love is a love which gives “what is best for the other person.” Sacrificially means that it has personal costs to those showing love. This type of love can be demonstrated; on a cold, snowy or rainy, wintry evening, taking off your gloves, and giving them to another who has no gloves, and likely is homeless and has cold hands and no gloves. An elderly or sick church member enclosed at home, and needs basic essentials, and cannot get them themselves, and picking them up on your way home from work. The cost is time, possible money, convenience, late dinner, being cold for a short period of time, etc.

Study Tools: Biblegateway.com, gotquestions.org; biblehub.com/lexicon/; BibleRef.com; Bible.org

Notes / Answers:

Q1 This is an old commandment, but Jesus gave us a new manner of love. Love here is based on sacrificial servanthood. Jesus would be leaving them soon, and He understood each believer would need the support of other believers more than ever. This is three dimensional love, love of God (vertical), love of each other (horizontal), and the new dimension, love which demonstrates their love for the Lord (from the heart to actual action).

Q2 “As I have loved you,” was something new also. This love goes well beyond Leviticus 19:18, to love others. Jesus’ love is sacrificially for others which he demonstrated by washing their feet, and ultimately on the Cross. PRINCIPLE: Self-sacrificing love, involving an action, not a feeling, is the new standard for genuine believer’s.

Q3

Q4

Thanksgiving and Christmas are times for ^{critiquing} thinking over your “Love for others”



Next Men’s Bible Study fourth Saturday of January 2023

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas

