

³⁴ *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*" (John 13:34-35)

1. Jesus' command to love one another was given only to His true disciples.
When he had gone out, Jesus said. . . (v.31).
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Leon Morris:

"The departure of the traitor was a significant happening. It meant that the little company was purged of its evil element. It meant also that the betrayal was under way and that therefore the great saving act to be consummated on Calvary was fairly launched."

2. Jesus' command to love one another was issued from a position of strength.
³¹ *When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once.*

 3. Jesus' command to love one another helped His disciples deal with His departure.
³³ *Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.'* (v.33)
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³⁴ *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another (vv.34-35)*

²⁸ *And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."* (Mark 12:28-31)

Jesus' commandment to love one another is new in 3 ways:

1. The focus of our love: other Christians – *love one another* (v.34a)
 2. The model for our love: Jesus – *just as I have loved you* (v.34b)
 3. The outcome of our love: being a positive witness for Jesus – *By this all people will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another* (v.35)
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1. Jesus models a serving love.
¹³ *You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.* (John 13:14-15)

2. Jesus models a truth-upholding love.

¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. (John 17:17)

3. Jesus models a sacrificial love.

¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. (1 John 3:16)

- *¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (John 14:15-17)*
 - *God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (Romans 5:5b)*
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This will be the final passage that I read at the end of the message to allow the musicians to come to the stage.

¹¹ For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹² We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.

¹⁴ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. ¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. (1 John 3:11-18)