

“The Badge of a Christian”

John 13:33-35

Tuesday Bible Lunch

April 16, 2019

Introduction: A badge is an emblem that tells what a person is.

- It may be something on a person clothing. Example: A policeman puts a badge.
- It may be a uniform. Example: A nurse, an airline pilot, a flight attendant.
- It may be a white coat that doctors wear. A short white coat means a medical student. When the student graduates, they get a long coat. (At John Hopkins University, the senior faculty wears short coats as a reminder they are always to learn.)

The badge of a Christian is their love for other Christians. This is what Jesus is saying in our Scripture today.

- In John chapter 13, Jesus begins His private ministry to His disciples.
- Chapters 13-17 is a farewell to His disciples on the night of His betrayal.
- The cross was one day away.
- Let's pick up in John 13:33-35.

Text: John 13:33-35

- “Where I am going, you cannot come” appears three times with the same wording in John's gospel (7:34; 8:21; 13:33).
- The commandment to love was not new.

- Deut. 6:5 commanded love for God.
- Lev. 19:18 commanded loving your neighbor as yourself.
- Jesus' words in Matthew 22:34-40 deal with loving God and loving your neighbor as yourself.
- What makes this commandment new are the five words Jesus spoke in verse 34.
- "As I have loved you"
- The word "commandment" comes from the Latin word "Maundy."
- Since Jesus spoke this on Thursday night in the Upper Room at the Last Supper with His disciples, many churches have Thursday Maundy services observing the Lord's Supper.

Loving fellow Christians was probably not easy for the disciples. They were different in many ways.

Loving fellow Christians is not easy for us.

- Sadly, the church has not done very well on this point.
- The unsaved population looks as the way Christians struggle with one another and are turned off by Christianity.
- Jesus said that we are to love fellow Christians the same way He loves us.

- His love for us is patient, unselfish, forgiving and sacrificial.

Conclusion: In the 1960s when Christian folk music was becoming popular, we sang a song that repeated the phrase, “and they’ll know we are Christians by our love.”

- Not by the size of our buildings
- Not by the frequency of our church attendance
- Not by the things we do in the church
- BUT by how we love one another.

Conclusion: Our “badge” as Christians is not a cross around our neck, even though nothing is wrong with that, but our love for fellow Christians.