

“The Difference Five Words Can Make”

John 13:34

Sunday, August 19, 2018

Introduction: Perhaps the best way to grasp what Jesus meant in the command He gave His disciples in the Upper Room on the night before His crucifixion is to admit to ourselves that we love some people more than we love other people.

- Even among your best friends, there will be some things that you do not like.
- Jesus Himself had twelve apostles; out of the twelve, He had three who were in His inner circle.
- Out of the three, there was something special to Jesus about the apostle John.

Illustration: This is mentioned five times in John’s gospel (13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7; and 21:20).

Text: John 13:31-35

Question: Why is this a new commandment?

- Jesus had previously taught about loving people (Matthew 22:34-40).
- This means that we are to love all people as we love ourselves.
- The five words: “As I have loved you” means that we are to love fellow-Christians as Christ loved us.
- This changes everything because Christ loved us far more than we love ourselves.

- The new commandment that Jesus gave is a higher love than to love our neighbor as ourselves.
- This is what makes it a “new commandment.”

Notice the example of this love that Jesus gave: “As I have loved you.”

- We are commanded to love fellow-Christians the way Christ loved His disciples.
- This is both powerful and practical.

1. Jesus loved His disciples unselfishly.

- Jesus had nothing to gain from them.
- Jesus had nothing to learn from them.

Application: Christians should love fellow-Christians not because of what they can get from them, but because of the good they can do for them.

Illustration: I saw this love last Wednesday and Thursday in Guadalajara, Mexico.

- Tom Gamble and I went to see work Julio Arriola and his wife Carla are doing.
- I preached the Wednesday evening service.
- I saw Julio and Carla loving the people.
- I saw the people loving them.
- I saw the people loving each other

- I saw the people loving Tom and me and all they knew about us is that we were brothers in Christ.
- I saw the passion of the people to tell the multitudes who live there who do not know Christ about Him.
- 98% of the people in Guadalajara are not Christians.

T.S. Christians are to love one another unselfishly and trustingly.

2. Jesus loved His disciples trustingly.

- Jesus knew the weaknesses of His disciples just like He knows our weaknesses.
- Yet He trusted them because He knew their hearts just like He knows our hearts.

Application: There must be trust between those who love the same Christ.

Illustration: You cannot do this 100% with all professing Christians. I have learned this over the years. That being true, do not live your Christian life not trusting any fellow-Christians.

Conclusion: The result of obeying this new commandment is the exciting thing. The result: You will know that you are one of His disciples. It will be your greatest assurance of your salvation (13:35).