

A New Commandment

John 13:34,35; 15:12

Introduction:

A. How could this be a new commandment?

1. Old Testament commanded love (Lev. 19:18; Deut. 10:19)
2. Love with a new dimension — “as I have loved you.”
 - a. He loved completely.
 - b. He loved unselfishly.
 - c. He loved sacrificially.

B. How did Jesus express his love?

1. Not shallow syrupy sentimentalism - No record of saying “I love you” - text as close as any.
2. Not in mere words, but in deed and truth (cf. 1 John 3:18).

C. Let us look at how Jesus demonstrated His love for his disciples during his personal ministry.

Discussion:

I. He Taught Them What They Needed to Know (Matt. 5:1,2)

- A. About the value of influence (Matt 5:13-16).
- B. About alternate ways of committing adultery (Matt 5:27-32).
- C. About doing things with proper motives (Matt 6:1-4)
- D. About the dangers of materialism (Matt 6:19-21)

II. He Warned Them About False Doctrine (Matt. 16:5-12).

- A. Paul showed same love for Timothy (2 Tim. 4:14, 15)
- B. John showed same love for Gaius and Diotrephes (3 John 9-12)

III. He Rebuked Them When They Were Wrong (Luke 9:54, 55; cf. Rev. 3:19)

- A. Not a constant critic of petty faults — but did rebuke when needed.
- B. Not confusing “understanding” for “acceptance.”

IV. He Prayed for Them Fervently (John 17:9-21).

- A. Hard to hate one for whom you pray.
- B. Pray most of all for spiritual welfare.

V. He Served Them Humbly and Faithfully (John 13:12-15).

- A. Served as well as being served — “Not/but” passage (Matt. 20:28).
- B. Served in a way beneath the dignity of many.

Conclusion:

A. Let us love as Jesus loved.

B. Let us teach, warn, rebuke, pray and serve — even die if necessary.