**In the Upper Room (3) – A New Commandment**

*John 13:34-35*

**Introduction**

1. Not long after Jesus washed the disciples’ feet, and instituted the Lord’s Supper, He gave what He called ***“a new commandment”*** to His disciples. **(John 13:34-35)**
2. This commandment is fundamental to discipleship. So much so that, when observed by the world, it serves as a label of our discipleship to Christ. **(v. 35)**
3. We should know, understand, and practice this ***“new commandment.”***
4. A New Commandment **(John 13)**
5. Context – Jesus Identifies His Betrayer
   1. **(v. 2)** – Judas already has purposed his heart toward betraying Jesus.
      1. **Satan’s role is no different than that he usually plays – temptation.**
      2. **Matthew 26:14-16** – What are you willing to give me to betray Him?
   2. **(vv. 9-11)** – Used the occasion to note there was one who was SPIRITUALLY unclean in their midst. (Jesus knows the heart.)
   3. **(vv. 17-19)** – An exception to what He spoke before – one would not do as Jesus did, but would actually do the opposite.
      1. ***“I know whom I have chosen”*** – knows the hearts of the disciples, Judas specifically here.
      2. Scripture must be fulfilled – ***“The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born” (Matthew 26:24).***
   4. **(vv. 21-30)** – The knowledge of His betrayer sitting at the table with Him and the disciples troubled Him greatly, and evidently needed to change before carrying on with His teaching.
      1. **(v. 26, 28, 29)** – Evidently it was given to him in secret. (under table as they reclined?) – Other did not know what He was talking about.
      2. Judas was sent out to betray Jesus.
   5. **(vv. 31-33)** – Jesus would be glorified in God at the cross, and God in Jesus.
      1. Sending Judas out to do as he intended was the first step on the road to the cross.
      2. **Jesus’ mind was made up already to submit to His Father’s will, and now everything simply needed to unfold.**
6. A New Commandment Given
   1. **(v. 34)** – New commandment is to love each other.
      1. **New?** – **cf. Leviticus 19:18** – love neighbor as self – *royal law*. (**cf. Matthew 22:37-40; James 2:8)**
      2. **New in the sense of MOTIVE and STANDARD:**
         1. **MOTIVE** – ***“as I have loved you”*** – having come to know through experience the love of Jesus, and that your brother has experienced the same, you love him.
            1. **1 John 3:16** – BY THIS we know love.
            2. If that same kind of love experienced is not also practiced toward the brethren – ***“how does the love of God abide in him?” (v. 17).***
            3. **New** – the love IS NOW motivated by the GREATEST DISPLAY OF LOVE EVER SHOWN **(cf. John 3:16),** and EXPERIENCED – ***“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends” (John 15:13).***
         2. **STANDARD** – ***“as I have loved you, that you also love one another”*** – not only is the love of Jesus our MOTIVATION, but is the SUPREME STANDARD of love.
            1. **John 15:12-13** – mentioned again by Jesus – willingness to lay down life for brother.
            2. **1 John 3:16-17** – To many in the 1st century, such a standard would become a literal reality.

**Regardless, the standard is sacrificial love to the highest degree** – have this mindset. (As did Christ for you.)

**(v. 17)** – when opportunities of sacrifice to a smaller degree present themselves, this mindset, or lack thereof will be uncovered.

* + - * 1. **NOTE: Jesus’ love shown was not “self-willed,” but God-willed.**

In what way would Jesus love the world – *in no other way than God’s design, His sacrificial death.*

**Cf. Matthew 26:39, 42** – Full submission to God’s will.

**We don’t love each other according to our standard of love, but God’s standard of love** – this often demands sacrifice on our part!

**To “love” another in a way other than how God instructs is PRESUMPTUOUS, and INEFFECTIVE. (EX: tolerance of sin…)**

1. **What are some examples of this *“new commandment”* in practice? 🡪**
2. A New Commandment Practiced
3. Repaying Evil with Good **(Romans 12:17-21)**
   1. **(v. 17)** – First thought is to retaliate. But don’t!
      1. ***“in the sight of all men”*** – ***“let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10).***
      2. Yes, our brethren should not act toward us in evil ways, but we must not retaliate with evil!
   2. **(v. 18)** – The conflict should not come from you!
   3. **(vv. 19-21)** – Recognize it is not your place to mete out vengeance.
      1. Jesus recognized this – **cf. 1 Peter 2:23**.
      2. **Do good – heap coals of fire on his head:**
         1. Not do good with the intent to hurt him… (that makes no sense)
         2. **Do good with the intent to move him to sorrow and shame for his wrong doing – so that he can repent!**
   4. **Cf. vv. 1-2** – This is part of sacrificial service before God…
   5. **(v. 20)** – In the case of their being moved to sorrow, and making things right 🡪
4. Forgiving Brethren **(Luke 17:1-10)**
   1. **(vv. 1-2)** – Offenses will come. People will fall short and sin, but don’t be the cause of that sin.
   2. **(vv. 3-4)** – Don’t be the cause of the offense, but also, if the offense is against you, take heed that you deal properly – rebuke, then forgive.
      1. 7 times in a day = a complete amount.
      2. **It doesn’t matter how many times! – You should always be willing to forgive the penitent.**
   3. **(v. 5)** – How difficult!!
      1. Not always easy to love our brethren in this way – especially when they fail so much in this regard!
      2. **We must be willing! – As the disciples displayed here.**
   4. **(v. 6)** – It isn’t a matter of the quantity of faith – you have any faith? You can forgive in this way!
      1. Faith comes by hearing God’s word **(cf. Romans 10:17).**
      2. **If God commands it, and you trust in Him (have faith) it can be done!**
      3. ***“for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13).***
      4. This is His will – that you forgive your brother – AND YOU MUST DO IT, SO IT CAN BE DONE! (No excuses!)
         1. **Is it difficult! – Of course!**
         2. **But can it be done? IT MUST!**
   5. **(vv. 7-10)** – When you thus submit to God’s standard, do not think yourself high and mighty – stay humble! **(You simply did what God requires you to do!)**
   6. **(v. 3) – Rebuke the one who sinned against you. To bring him to repentance 🡪**
5. Restoring the Erring
   1. **James 5:19-20** – know the importance! – ***“save a soul from death.”***
      1. Why do people balk at such an important thing?
      2. **It’s uncomfortable, and often intimidating – how will they react? Will they dislike me? (Sacrifice that you must be willing to make…)**
   2. **Galatians 6:1-2** – This is a command – fulfill the ***“law of Christ.”***
      1. Do you think toleration, or ignoring the sin is better for the person? – Don’t want to make them feel bad, or come off as self-righteous, or scare them away?
      2. **God says, “Spiritual person (faithful), restore the fallen!”**
   3. **Matthew 18:15-17** – You’re trying to gain a brother!
      1. No matter how uncomfortable, and unfortunate the situation, you are to try to restore him!
      2. **(v. 17)** – This is toward the same end:
         1. ***“deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus” (1 Corinthians 5:5).***
         2. **Love as Christ loved you – submitted to God’s will, not love with self-will; sacrificial love (Many kinds of sacrifices…).**

**Conclusion**

1. Jesus laid His life down for us, and gave us a commandment to love each other.
2. **We must be motivated to such by the love we ourselves have received from Christ, and our love for each other should seek to live up to that standard of Christ’s love.**
3. ***“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (Romans 13:35).***