

1. We learned that loving begins with an attitude of the heart, but it doesn't stop there. It must also become an act of the will. We must choose to love. Not in our own strength but through God's work in us:

"...because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us." —Romans 5:5

How can we begin to love one another with this type of love? What specifically can you/we do in our church and in our LifeGroup to live out this command with greater reality?

2. What does John say in this passage about the importance of loving "in deed", not just "in word"? How can we apply this today?

"But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?" —1 John 3:17

HIDE IT IN OUR HEARTS: *Linger in the Text and Let it Dwell Richly*

Paul instructs us to "let the word of Christ dwell within us richly." (Col. 3:16)
May this Word of Christ find good soil in our hearts as we memorize and meditate upon it until our next LifeGroup gathering.

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

—John 13:34, 35



Love One Another

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HEAR IT: *Listen to the Text and Discover the Truth*

THE CONTEXT: A Late Night Dinner and a Moonlit Walk

1. Jesus _____ His _____ to his disciples. (13:1-20)

*"Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He should depart out of this world to the Father, **having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.**" —v. 1*

2. Jesus _____ the _____ among his disciples. (13:21-30)

*When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that **one of you will betray Me.**" —v. 21*

3. Jesus _____ His _____ from his disciples. (13:31-35)

*"Little children, **I am with you a little while longer.** You shall seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, I now say to you also, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'" —v. 33*

4. Jesus _____ the _____ of one of his disciples. 13:36-38

*"Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a cock shall not crow, until **you deny Me three times.**" —v. 38*

THE COMMAND: The Mark of True Discipleship & A Moving Witness

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another**, even **as I have loved you**, that you also love one another. **By this all men will know that you are My disciples**, if you have love for one another."*

—John 13.34, 35

1. LOVE is the _____ of our Discipleship.

a. The _____ to love: "A new commandment I give to you,..."

b. The _____ of our love: "...one another..."

c. The _____ of our love: "...as I have loved you..."

- Definition: Love is a _____, **unconditional** giving of **oneself** and one's _____ for the benefit of another. It is an _____ of the **heart** that issues in an _____ of the **will**.

2. LOVE is the _____ of our Discipleship.

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples..."

WE BELIEVE THAT A GREAT _____ TO THE
GREAT _____ AND THE GREAT _____
WILL BUILD A GREAT _____.

HASH IT OUT: Look into the Text and Develop the Truth

1. How did Jesus show His love for His Disciples in this chapter? What strikes you most about His love in this context (in light of all that was happening)?

2. Jesus restates this command just a few verses later, in John 15:12, 17. How does He illustrate what love is in the surrounding verses?

"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.... This I command you, that you love one another." —John 15.12, 17

3. The command to love one another occurs more than any of the other "one another" commands. John uses it five times in his epistles. It is the foundational one another out of which all the others flow. What contribution do Paul and Peter make to our understanding of this command?

"Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law." —Romans 13.8

"Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another." —1 Thessalonians 4.9

"Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart." —1 Peter 1.22

"Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins." —1 Peter 4.8

4. It is clear that Jesus wanted His disciples to truly experience genuine community. He knew that selfless, sacrificial love would be essential. Why do we struggle with this command? What makes it difficult?

How can we overcome the issues we just identified?