

The One Another Life – A Gospel Community

Week 1 – Love One Another
(John 13:34-35)

OPENING QUESTION

What should be the distinguishing mark **of people who belong to Jesus?**

KEY VERSE

*“I give you a new command: Love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another.
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you love one another.” –John 13:34-35*

A NEW COMMAND

1. Jesus **commands His disciples** to love one another. (John 13:34a)

The **authority** of the command: *Jesus commands love.*

What is true: Love is not optional for a disciple of Jesus; it is commanded by Christ.

What to do: Deliberately seek the good of believers God has placed around you.

2. Jesus makes **His own love the pattern.** (John 13:34b)

The **standard** of the command: *Jesus’ love is the benchmark.*

Jesus’s love is **humble**, **self-giving**, and **sacrificial** (John 13:1-17).

What is true: Jesus does not leave us to define love for ourselves; His own love is the pattern.

What to do: Let the way Christ has loved you shape the way you love others.

3. Jesus calls His disciples to reflect His love **toward one another.** (John 13:34c)

The **response** required by the command: *His disciples are to embody that pattern in their relationships.*

This makes the church community itself the immediate sphere of the command. Jesus teaches love for neighbors and enemies elsewhere, but here He specifically speaks of relationships among His disciples.

What is true: Christlike love is not merely something we profess; it must be seen in the way we treat others. Neither is Jesus’s love only something His disciples receive; it is something they are called to continually reflect toward one another.

What to do: Let the love you have received from Christ become visible in the way you treat fellow believers. Take one concrete step this week to seek another believer's good.

4. Love identifies Jesus's disciples **before the world** (John 13:35).

The **result** of the command: *Christ-like love in us becomes visible evidence of discipleship and being a follower of Jesus Christ.*

The command: *Love one another.*

The pattern: *As I have loved you.*

The witness: *By this everyone will know that you are My disciples.*

What is true: Our love for one another is meant to be a visible witness that we belong to Christ.

What to do: Treat fellow believers in a way that gives others an accurate picture of Jesus.

THE MAIN IDEA

Main Idea: Because Jesus has loved us with self-giving love, His disciples must love one another in a way that reflects Him and visibly identifies us as belonging to Him.

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Before Christ's love becomes our example, it is our salvation. Jesus loved His own "to the end" and ultimately demonstrated that love at the cross. We do not love in order to earn Christ's love. **We love because Christ has first loved us.**

APPLICATION

One-Sentence Application: *Because Christ has loved us sacrificially, intentionally love the believers God has placed around you in ways that make His love visible through His church.*

1. Who has Christ placed **around me to love?** Do not think only in general terms about loving "people" or "the church." Think about the actual brothers and sisters God has put in your life and where He may be calling you to move toward them in love.
2. What would Christlike love **require from me this week?** Because Jesus says, "Just as I have loved you," our love should take its shape from His. That may require humility, patience, sacrifice, or a willingness to put another person's good ahead of your own comfort.
3. Is there someone I need to **serve, forgive, encourage, call, visit, or move toward?** Love becomes visible through action. Ask whether there is a specific relationship where obedience to this command needs to move from intention to something concrete.
4. What does my treatment of other believers **communicate about Jesus?** Jesus says the world will recognize His disciples by their love for one another. Our relationships should give others a truthful picture of the Savior we claim to follow.