



John 13:34-35

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John 13:34-35

³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

The Uniqueness Of Following Jesus

TERRORIST ATTACKS

Paris

Build a Wall

Fear

Moral Decay

Protect Our Jobs

Brussels

Chattanooga TN

Islamic Extremists

Fight Back

Keep us Safe

ISIS

San Bernardino

Supreme Court

RESESSION

Keep Them Out

Al Qaeda

Boko Haram

They are all Criminals

One Who is Unique – His Titles

- King of Kings
- Lord of Lords
- The First and the Last
- Creator and Sustainer
- Brightness of God's Glory
- Exact Representation of the Father
- The Word Who was Spoken

One Who is Unique – His Roles

- Final Spokesman for God
- High Priest
- The Gate
- The Vine
- The Resurrection
- The Way, The Truth, The Life

One Who is Unique – His Work

- Healed the sick, the blind, the deaf
- Raised the Dead
- The Poor were Given Good News
- Forgave Sinners
- Restored Our relationship With God

One Who is Unique – Experienced Poverty

- He experienced what it was like to be poor, marginalized, mistreated by those in power.
- His response was one of love, joy in all things and rest in the peace of God.
- He showed us how to know love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

One Who is Unique – God and Man

- He is God Who Came to Earth as a Man
- His name is JESUS

God Loved Us So Much That...

John 3:16-18

"For **God so loved the world** that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

I John 4:7-11

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. **This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**

Romans 5:6-8

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. **But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

The Most Unique Thing About Christianity

- A God that Loves
- God loved us first and makes the first move to restore the broken relationship with man
- God's love was so deep and unconditional that He was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice

Romans 5:9-11

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, **when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son**, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

John 13:34-35

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.**"

The World Twists What is Good into a Cheap Counterfeit

- The world has twisted love and turned it into lust
- The world has twisted joy and called it happiness
- The world has twisted peace and made it an anxious cease fire between wars

Matthew 5:43-48

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

⁴⁴ **But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,**

⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Matthew 5:43-48

⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?

⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Luke 6:35-36

- ³⁵ **But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back.** Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.
- ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Romans 12:17-21

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Romans 12:17-21

²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Treating of Enemies: THE WORLD vs JESUS

RETALIATION

PRAYER

RETRIBUTION

FEEDING

ONE_UPMANSHIP

CLOTHING

GIVING WHAT IS NEEDED

What Does Loving Your Enemies Look Like?

Love Doesn't Always Come Easy

- Love means treating everyone with respect – no matter what they have done to you.
 - Unmarried
 - Married
 - Co-workers
 - Treat all people with kindness
 - Treat spouse like your equal and not a subordinate
 - Give children responsibility and trust

Love Doesn't Always Come Easy

- Love means forgiving to the same degree that we have been forgiven by God.
 - Forgiving means I give up my right to retaliate against you.
 - Trust between us may still have to be earned.
- **Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.**

(Colossians 3:13)

I Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Attributes of Love

- Love is patient
- Love is kind
- Love does not envy
- It does not boast
- It is not proud
- It is not rude

Attributes of Love

- It is not self seeking
- It is not easily angered
- It keeps no record of wrongs
- Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth

Attributes of Love

- It always protects
- Always trusts
- Always hopes
- Always perseveres
- Love never fails

I Corinthians 13:11

- When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.
- As we mature in Christ, we will grow in love, and the way of love will become our way of life.

II Peter 1:5-9

For this very reason, **make every effort to add to your faith** goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, **love**.

II Peter 1:5-9

For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.**

Full Circle

- The uniqueness of following Jesus among all the world religions is love
- God first loved us
- We respond to Him in love
- We share God's love so that the world may know Him and that we follow Jesus

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Jesus Calls Us to Love