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Join Pastor Jaime Gonzalez as he explores what agape (God's) love looks like in today's divided world. Jesus gave a "new commandment" to love one another as He loved us - not just loving others as we love ourselves, but with sacrificial, unconditional love. Christians should navigate political divisions, cultural conflicts, and social issues while remaining rooted in biblical love, arguing that love and faith working together bring victory in life.

I. Introduction: The New Commandment

- John 13:31-35 - Jesus gives a new commandment to love one another

II. Understanding Agape Love

- Old Testament: Love God
- Jesus' time: Love God and love your neighbor as yourself
- New commandment: Love your brother as Christ loved you
- Examples of Jesus' love in His final days (washing feet, forgiving betrayers)

III. Love in Today's Divided World

- Addressing political divisions and cultural conflicts
- Christians fighting over secondary issues
- The danger of letting politics override love

IV. Three Main Points:

A. Love is a Decision (Colossians 3:14)

- "Put on love" - it's a choice, not just emotion
- Love sustained through difficult seasons
- Romans 2:4 - God's goodness leads to repentance

B. Love is an Action

- Personal testimony: selling truck despite difficulties
- Representing Christ in everyday situations
- Love gives, honors, and prefers others

C. Love Never Fails (1 Corinthians 13)

- Love has no end and never ceases
 - Two principles for victory: Walk in love and stay in faith
 - Faith works by love (Galatians 5:6 - implied)
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Top Points Made

1. **The New Commandment is Different:** Jesus elevated love from "love your neighbor as yourself" to "love as I have loved you" - requiring sacrificial, unconditional love regardless of how much we love ourselves.
 2. **Love Doesn't Stop for Politics:** Christians shouldn't let political differences, social issues, or cultural divisions cause them to abandon Christ's command to love one another.
 3. **Truth and Love Must Coexist:** Standing for biblical truth (on abortion, sexuality, etc.) doesn't contradict walking in love - you can speak truth while still loving people.
 4. **Love is a Choice, Not Just Emotion:** Marriages and relationships fail when based only on feelings; agape love is a decision that sustains through difficult seasons.
 5. **Actions Demonstrate Love:** "Don't love in word only, but in deed and action" - love must be practical and demonstrable, not just theoretical.
 6. **Victory Comes Through Faith AND Love:** Both are required; faith works by love, and neither operates effectively without the other.
 7. **Representing Christ in Every Situation:** How we handle frustrations, disagreements, and inconveniences reveals whether we're truly walking in love.
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Best Quotations

On the New Commandment:

"In Old Testament times, it was love God. In Jesus' time, it was love God and love your neighbors as yourself. But at the end of Jesus' ministry, he said, this is a new commandment... Love your brother the way I love you. That's not the same thing as love you as yourself. Why? Because if I don't love myself very much, then that means I don't have to love my brother very much."

On Love in Today's World:

"What happened to that individual, whether I think 99% of us brought in here can agree that he was a brother in Christ... What's happening in this great divide that is taking place is like two sides and almost like no in between. It's forcing people to come against each other. And we were never told that agape love does not apply to today."

On Love Without Conditions:

"Love has no stipulations, no conditions, no certain criteria... Jesus loved Judas in spite of the fact that Judas was about to betray him."

On Truth and Love:

"I can preach the truth in love and not hate you. Now, you may take it that I'm coming against you, but I'm not coming against you. You say, why do you do that? Because I love someone greater than I love you. And as much as I love you, I love God, and what he says is true."

On Demonstrating Love:

"Love isn't in word only, but love in deed and action. What have you done? What have we done? Jesus loved, and he acted on it."

On Choosing Love:

"Love is a decision... When Jesus said, I give you a new command, that means we have the opportunity, we have the power, the authority, the ability to choose to obey that command."

On Victory:

"I'm not going to lose in my health, I'm not going to lose in my relationships, I'm not going to lose in my finances. I'm not going to lose. The devil is not going to beat me... There's two things that I need to do to get the victory in life: I need to walk in love and I need to stay in faith. Those two work hand in hand to bring me the victory that I need."

On God's Goodness:

"It's the goodness of God that leads sinners to repentance. I'm always mindful of that. It's God's goodness that led me to change, and the people that don't know God, I'm going to demonstrate God's love because the Bible says that's what leads a sinner to repentance."