

I CORINTHIANS

Characteristics of a healthy church

Chapter 13

The Healthy Church

1. Keeps the main thing, the main thing = Jesus
2. The Gospel is Central = the wisdom & the power of God
3. Holy Spirit = Key to transformation
4. Strives for , righteousness, holiness & purity

The Healthy Church

5. Biblically loves God & others = foundation of the church
6. Gains biblical knowledge to build up the body not puff itself up or lord over others
7. Doesn't fight for personal rights, but seeks right relationships and right living!
8. Offers the Gospel for free!

The Healthy Church

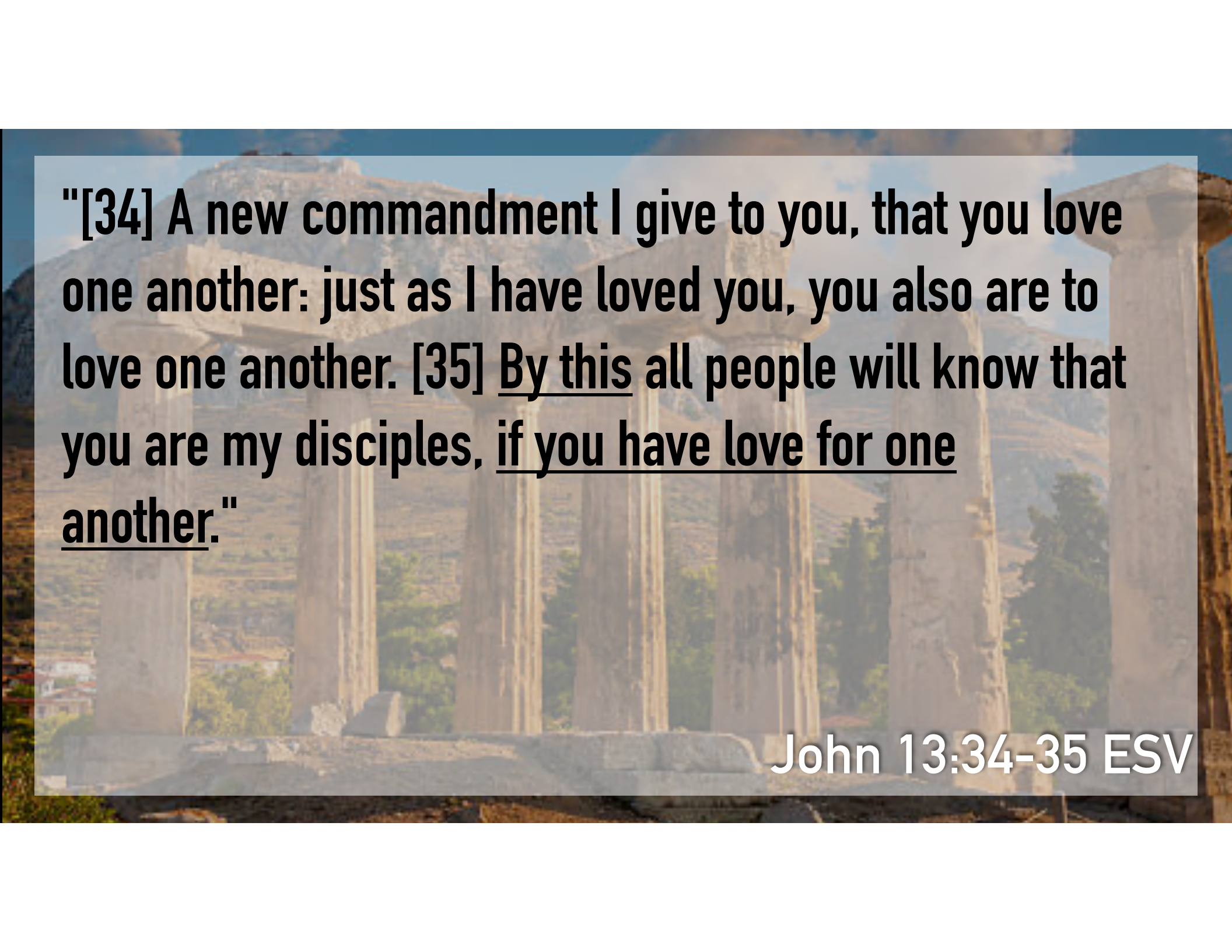
9. Is Humble and Vigilant in their relationships with God, each other and the world around them!
10. Is Careful in How it represents God's Word, His Kingdom & The Gospel in Corporate Conduct & Worship

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

- ★ Chapter 12, 13 & 14 = spiritual gifts sandwich - 12:31...now I will show you the most excellent way = love
 - "Greater" Gifts? - NKJV says "best" - ESV "higher"
 - Should be asking "What's the need Lord?" or "What's the most loving?"

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

- ★ No doubt why Paul had to interject this teaching on love - this spiritually gifted church had divisions, confusion, squabbles, etc going on!
- ★ Without love = no matter how gifted the ministry or church it just makes a bunch of noise, amounts to nothing, and gain's nothing = the end is 0, zero, zilch, nada! - essentially it is spinning its wheels!



"[34] A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. [35] By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:34-35 ESV

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

- ★ Paul has already been saying this - 8:1
- ★ Biblical love - greek word 'agape'
 - only used here...and all over!
 - Based on a choice, a matter of the will not a feeling (storge or phileo or eros)
 - Allistair Begg "*This love is a servant of the will not a victim of emotion*"

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

- It's vibrant, strong, and manly not soft feminine, and cuddly = 1 John 3:16 = involves sacrifice
- ★ Paul is teaching us about this biblical love giving us traits of what it IS and IS NOT
- ★ By the power of the HS with love it sounds like God can use ordinary people to do some pretty extraordinary things!



1 John 4

**'Greatest' or 'best' or 'higher'
thing we should desire =
LOVE**