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Marks of a Disciple: Love as Jesus Loves
Matthew 10:24-25 ESV

To be "marked" as a disciple of Christ is to be an imitator of Him. *"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master...."* (Matthew 10:24a)

When imitating Jesus, no character trait or behavior more profoundly marks the life of a disciple of Jesus than loving God and loving one another with His love.

Text: *"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."* (Jn 13:34-35).

I. **The motivation to love (why)** –
"because" (v. 34)

¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him." (John 13:12-16)

- "love" occurs 57 times in the *Gospel of John*

- "love" 46 times in the book of *1 John*.

- John's self-description - the "disciple Jesus loved"

- **this defined his whole orientation to life.**

*"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19
"God shows His love for us in that while we were
still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom 5:8)*

We love because we are loved. Not out of fear or duty.

II. The method of love (how) - *"in the same way" (v.34)*

"Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children, 2 and walk in love, as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us..." (Ephesians 5:1-2)

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.... ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another." (John 15)

"In Scripture, love is no abstract idea, conceived to provide a self-explanatory, self-motivating 'norm' to resolve the problem in every moral situation. It is rooted in the divine nature, expressed in the coming and death of Christ, experienced in salvation, **and so kindled within the saved.** Thus, it is central, essential, and indispensable to Christianity. For God is love." -Elwell and Comfort

II. The mission of love (whom) - *"by this all will know" (v. 35)*

Luke 10:25-37- *Parable of the Good Samaritan*

"Who is my neighbor?" The lawyer was asking, "How big do I need to draw my circle, to be justified in God's sight?"

Gospel proclamation is the responsibility or fruit of a disciple-maker; but so is gospel demonstration—loving behavior towards our neighbor. (*1 John 3:16*)

Conclusion: The Great Commission, the Great Commandment and the Great Requirement are all bound up in our willingness as His disciples to be marked by Jesus' motivation, Jesus' method, and Jesus' mission of love.