

A New Commandment

John 13:34,35; 15:12

Introduction:

- A. How could this be a new commandment?
 - 1. Old Testament commanded love (Lev. 19:18; Duet. 10:19)
 - 2. Love with a new dimension — “as I have loved you.”
 - a. He loved completely.
 - b. He loved unselfishly.
 - c. He loved sacrificially.
- B. How did Jesus express his love?
 - 1. Not shallow syrupy sentimentalism - No record in saying “I love you” - text as close as any.
 - 2. Not in mere words, but in deed and truth (cf. 1 John 3:18).
- C. Let us look at how Jesus demonstrated His love for his disciples during his personal ministry.

Discussion:

- I. He Taught Them What They Needed to Know (Matt. 5:1,2)**
 - A. About the value of influence (5: 13-16).
 - B. About alternate ways of committing adultery (5:27-32).
 - C. About doing things with proper motives (6:1-4)
 - D. About the dangers of materialism (6:19-21)
- II. He Warned Them About False Doctrine (Matt. 16:5-12).**
 - A. Paul showed same love for Timothy (2 Tim. 4:14, 15)
 - B. John showed same love for Gaius and Diotrephes (3 John 9-12)
- III. He Rebuked Them When They Were Wrong (Luke 9:54, 55; cf. Rev. 3:19)**
 - A. Not a constant critic of petty faults — but did rebuke when needed.
 - B. Not confusing “understanding” for “acceptance.”
- IV. He Prayed for Them Fervently (John 17:9-21).**
 - A. Hard to hate one for whom you pray.
 - B. Pray most of all for spiritual welfare.
- V. He Served Them Humbly and Faithfully (John 13:12-15).**
 - A. Served as well as being served — “Not/but” passage (Matt. 20:28).
 - B. Served in a way beneath the dignity of many.

Conclusion:

- A. Let us love as Jesus loved.
- B. Let us teach, warn, rebuke, pray and serve — even die if necessary.