



## Gospel Community Notes & Questions

**Title:** A New Commandment

**Text:** John 13:31-35

**Theme:** In light of the paradox of the Cross, Christians must be defined by our sacrificial love for one another.

**Teaching Notes:** Why does Jesus say the hour for him to be glorified has come if he's headed to a gruesome death on a cross? Why does he say the disciples can't come with him? What does he mean when he says the command to love one another is "new"? How can we love each other as Jesus has first loved us?

**Outline:**

### 1. The demonstration of love. (vv. 31-33)

- Jesus is saying, "Something's about to happen whereby I will receive honor and praise, and my Father will receive honor and praise through me." He's talking about the cross.
- The humiliation of the cross is ultimately glory because Jesus died to give us life and to display the full magnitude of God's love.

### 2. The duty to love. (v. 34)

- a. The mandate to love is not new.
- b. The community of love is new.
- c. The standard of love is new.
- d. The power of love is new.

### 3. The distinguishing feature of love. (v. 35)

- a. The distinguishing feature is mutual love.
- b. The distinguishing feature is not a whole lot of other good things.



**Questions to explore individually and with your group:**

1. What did you know about the “new commandment” before this message?
2. What’s something you’ve either paid a lot for or sacrificed a lot for? (e.g. concert or sporting event tickets, a special meal, a prized possession) What does your sacrifice demonstrate about your attitude toward that thing? What’s that got to do with this story?
3. How would you summarize what was new about Jesus’ “new commandment”? What stood out to you from that section of the teaching?
4. What are some key differences between loving your neighbor and loving one another? What are some ways those two loves would look different in action?
5. The message shared five ways Jesus loves you: undeservedly, unconditionally, selflessly, extravagantly, and sacrificially. What other words would you add to this list describing Jesus’ love?
6. Think of some Christians you instinctively love and some others you don’t love. Consider both types/groups of Christians and specific individuals.
  - What do you observe?
  - What are the main reasons you love the first group of people?
  - What are the main reasons you struggle to love the second group?
7. List some specific, actionable ways you could love other Christians this week.
8. What are some things Christians act *as if* Jesus said in verse 35? “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you \_\_\_\_\_.”
9. What one actionable thing will you do this week in response to this Scripture?

**Prayer Prompts:**

1. Praise Jesus for counting it all joy to give his life to bring you life.
2. Confess your lack of love, particularly toward others in the community of faith, and repent of the underlying heart desires that hinder love.
3. Ask God to continue to reveal the magnitude of his love and to motivate and change you with that love.