

- I. Opening Thoughts
 - A. If you were going to die tomorrow, what words of wisdom would you leave with your close friends and/or family?
 - B. Big Idea: Christ's followers, if for no other reason, should be marked by their love for one another
 - C. Goal: To present Christ as the supreme example of self-sacrificial love
- II. Exegesis
 - A. Vss. 31-32 – The Glorification of Jesus
 1. This symbolizes Jesus' victory in Spirit over the spirit of evil found in Judas. Ultimately, it was His victory over Satan himself. Jesus went from despair (vs. 21) to triumph through His glorification. He looked past the cross to the glory that awaited Him (Hebrews 12:2). Additionally, He spoke without restraint.
 2. The Father is glorified in Jesus; Jesus is glorified in the Father; and the Father is glorified in Himself. All glory and honor belongs to God through Jesus Christ – the Resurrection and Exaltation of Christ after the Cross (cp. Philippians 2:9-11). The humiliation of the Cross brought the glorification of Christ which led to the exaltation of Christ
 - B. Vs. 33 – The Affection of Jesus
 1. After the distress of unmasking Judas as His betrayer, Jesus transitions to addressing the remaining Eleven with tenderness and affection. This again shows the humanity of Christ and the range of emotions He has.
 2. "Little children" is a term of endearment used only once in the Gospels, but used by Paul once (Galatians 4:19) and the writer of this gospel, John, in his first Epistle (1 John) at least seven times.
 3. "A little while... Where I am going" – repeated by Jesus in 7:34 and 8:21. This is in a different sense than it was to the Jews. Here, Jesus was again preparing them for His departure.
 - C. Vss. 34-35 – The Imperative of Love
 1. Since Jesus was preparing them for His departure, He wanted to leave them with what to do after He left, primarily demonstrating love for one another.
 2. This commandment is not "new" in the sense that it has never been revealed before. Moses commanded to love the Lord with our whole being (Deuteronomy 6:5) and to love our neighbor (Leviticus 19:18). However, Jesus gives a higher standard of love, which made it "new".
 3. In fact, Jesus gave a higher standard of the law in the Sermon on the Mount and in other gospel accounts (Examples)
 4. What is that higher standard in this text? "Love one another as I have loved you". Their immediate example of this kind of love was the foot washing. Their next example would be the cross. This love is a) self-sacrificial (1 John 3:16) and b) produced through the working of the Holy Spirit through the New Covenant (Galatians 5:22; Jeremiah 31:29-34).
 5. The Beloved Apostle expands on Jesus' theme of loving one another in 1 John 4:7-21
 6. One of the distinguishing marks of a true Christian and follower of Christ is our love for each other and of Christ because true believers move from hatred to love of Christ and His people. A true believer loves the things of God as well. If we harbor any hatred towards our fellow Christian brothers and sisters and toward Christ and the things of God, we are not true followers of Christ but of Satan. Such was Judas (1 John 2:9-11; 3:11-15; 4:20)
 - D. Vss. 36-38 – The Humbling of Peter
 1. Obviously, Peter did not listen well to Jesus because he insisted on knowing where Christ was going. Shouldn't he have known from vss. 34-35?
 2. Next, Peter made a very bold claim that he will lay down his life for Jesus. Though Peter was sincere in what he said, he didn't know himself, for the very same night, he would deny Jesus three times (18:15-18, 25-27). Also, the irony being that Peter would be martyred for Christ (21:17-19) decades later, hence Jesus saying "you will follow afterward"
 3. Peter also had everything backward. It is Jesus who would lay down His life for Peter.

4. Carson: Peter, and doubtless others amongst the Eleven who are slower to respond, are less interested in the new commandment than in the threatened departure of their Master.¹
5. Peter “cannot” (emphatic) follow Jesus anyway because it is Jesus who will atone the sins of the world. Only Jesus can be glorified in the Father. It was determined before time began (1 Peter 1:20; Revelation 13:8)
6. Carson: “Ironically, Jesus asked Peter the rhetorical question, “Will you die for me?” In essence, Jesus was asking him, “Who, in fact, would die for whom. (10:15; 11:50-52)

III. Principles

- A. Truth always triumphs over wickedness and evil
- B. The glorified and exalted Christ is in heaven, seated at the right hand of God, serving us as our High Priest, Mediator, Intercessor
- C. Christ has tender affections for His own
- D. God has warned us through His word about things to come. They will come to pass.
- E. Jesus cares about how believers treat one another.
- F. We are not only to follow Jesus, but be like Him.
- G. God humbles those whom He loves. He will not share His glory with any other.

IV. Applications

- A. Love your Christian brothers and sisters unconditionally, from the heart
- B. Count the cost before following Jesus
- C. Self-confidence is a sin. Don't rely on it. Pursue humility

¹ Carson, D. A. (1991). *The Gospel according to John* (pp. 485–486). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.