

THE NEW COMMANDMENT

John 13:34-35

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

The central theme of the passage is the new commandment given by Jesus to love one another as He loved us. This commandment is emphasized as essential to the survival and authenticity of Christianity. Love, defined by sacrificial actions rather than mere words, is depicted as the hallmark of discipleship. The summary also delves into the transformative nature of Christ's love, illustrating how it changes the way believers relate to God and one another.

Key Points:

1. **The New Commandment of Love:** Jesus introduces a new commandment to love one another, modelled after His own sacrificial love. This commandment is imperative for identifying followers of Christ and maintaining the vitality of the Church.
2. **Unconditional and Sacrificial Love:** Jesus exemplifies love through selflessness, even unto death. This form of love is unconditional, sacrificial, and devoid of self-interest.
3. **Authenticity of Christianity:** Love serves as the distinguishing mark of true discipleship. Without love for God and others, one cannot genuinely claim to follow Christ.
4. **Demonstration of Love:** Love is not merely a sentiment but is expressed through actions. Jesus' love is demonstrated through spending time with his disciples, patiently bearing with their flaws, speaking truth even when uncomfortable, and ultimately laying down His life for them.
5. **Application of Christlike Love:** Believers are called to emulate Christ's love by forgiving, serving, giving generously, speaking truth in love, and fostering community. Love is depicted as the primary witness to the world of one's faith.
6. **Transformation Through Love:** As believers embrace Christ's love, they are transformed to reflect His character, shedding behaviours and attitudes inconsistent with love. Love is depicted as the catalyst for living out the Christian life with authenticity and joy.

In summary, the passage underscores the transformative power of Christ's love, urging believers to embody this love in their actions towards God and others, thus fulfilling the new commandment and exemplifying true discipleship