

A New Commandment

John 13:34-35 & 1 Peter 4:7-8

John 13:34-35 (KJV)

- ³⁴ A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.
- ³⁵ By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

- **Agape in the Greek means affection, benevolence (hence the word charity) or my personal favorite, love feast.**
- **Agape love is not only the highest form of love, but the purest. This is the love that Jesus has for us and that would cause Him to go to the cross.**

1 John 4:7-8 (NLT)

- ⁷ Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love
- (Verse 8) - for God is love. [He is the originator of love, and it is an enduring attribute of His nature.] (AMP)

- **Love is the divine and defining characteristic of a child of God because it is the defining characteristic of God.**
- **Love is who God is. It is His very nature. There is no love apart from Him**

1 Peter 4:7-8 (NKJV)

- ⁷ But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. ⁸ And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”

- **John 14:15 - ¹⁵ “If you love me, obey my commandments”**
- **We are never going to love like Jesus until we truly love Jesus. In fact, John said we do not even know God unless we love like God.**

1 John 4:9-10 (NLT)

- ⁹ God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰ This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

1 John 4:20-21 (AMP)

- ²⁰ If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates (works against) his [Christian] brother he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should also [unselfishly] love his brother *and* seek the best for him.

- Our test of how much we love God is in seeing how much we love each other
- The commandments are clear: Love Me (Jesus), obey Me (Jesus). Obey Me (Jesus) by loving each other regardless

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (NKJV)

- ⁴ Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged
- Forgiveness is hard only when loving someone is hard

- **When you belong to a close-knit community, the risk of being hurt is always going to increase; which also means the risk of unforgiveness entering our lives will increase.**
- **Those who wrong us will mostly come from our personal family and unfortunately, from God's family**

- **Hatred can show itself in many ways, but trust me, it always shows itself**
- **Forgiveness is not just the release of the other person's sin; it is a release from the burden of our sin.**

Mark 11:25

- ²⁵ But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.

Colossians 3:13-14 (NLT)

- **¹³ Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.**

1 John 4:7 & 12 (AMP)

- ⁷ Beloved, let us [unselfishly] love *and* seek the best for one another, for love is from God;
- ¹² No one has seen God at any time. But if we love one another [with unselfish concern], God abides in us, and His love [the love that is His essence abides in us and] is completed *and* perfected in us.

1 John 4:21 (AMP)

- ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should also [unselfishly] love his brother *and* seek the best for him.
- Seeking and looking to be used of God to bless those around us should be a priority. Let your questions carry true concern and care.

Galatians 6:10 (AMP)

- So then, while we [as individual believers] have the opportunity, let us do good to all people [not only being helpful, but also doing that which promotes their spiritual well-being], and especially [be a blessing] to those of the household of faith (born-again believers).

- **Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can. – John Wesley**