



Week 3 ~ A New Commandment In Glory

The Text: John 13:31-35 *Passion Translation*

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³³ “My dear friends, I only have a brief time left to be with you. And then you will search and long for Me. But I tell you what I told the Jewish leaders— you’ll not be able to come where I am. ³⁴ “So I give you now a new commandment: Love each other just as much as I have loved you.

³⁵ For when you demonstrate the same love I have for you by loving one another, everyone will know that you’re My true followers.”

- **John 13:31** After Judas left the room, Jesus said, “The time has come for the glory of God to surround the Son of Man, and God will be greatly glorified through what happens to Me. ³² Very soon God will unveil the glory of the Son of Man.
 - What does it mean when God’s glory is manifest? The simple, one-word answer is...**TO SHINE!**
 - “The time has come for Me to **shine!** What’s about to happen to me (the Cross) will look like total defeat, but My Father’s LOVE is going to **shine so brightly** that no now will be able to ignore it!
 - Father, **bring glory to your name.**” Then a voice spoke from heaven, saying, “I have already brought glory to my name, and I will do so again.” (John 12:28 NLT-SE)
 - The word denotes the **manifested perfection of God’s character** - His splendor, brightness, magnificence, excellence, preeminence, dignity, grace and majesty. (Vines)
 - And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, **he gave them his glory.** (Rom 8:30 NLT-SE)
 - When Judas leaves Jesus says, “**Now is the Son of Man glorified (doxazo).**” That is, now (by this means) is God’s purpose advanced, fulfilled, and will begin to shine before all men! Not only the Son, but the Father too is glorified.
- ³³ **“My dear friends [“little children”], I only have a brief time left to be with you. And then you will search and long for Me. But I tell you what I told the Jewish leaders— you’ll**

not be able to come where I am. ³⁴ “So I give you now a new commandment: Love each other just as much as I have loved you.

- The Passion Translation here is lacking in clarity when it comes to how Jesus was addressing. The greek word translated “dear friends” is *teknion*, which is “little children” in most other translations. There are three words in the NT for “children” that are very important, yet very different:
 - ***teknion*...an infant**, who is deeply loved. (Jn. 13:33; 1 Jn. 2:1, 12, 28; 3:7, 18; 4:4; 5:21)
 - ***teknon*...a child**, son or daughter. The Greeks normally used this word to speak of one who is a descendant by birth. It is in most instances translated as “children,” and often as a designation of believers in Christ. John uses it exclusively this way. Christians are declared to be children of God (John 1:12; I John 3:1-2,10), having been born into His family. (John 1:12; 11:52; Rom. 8:16-17, 21; 9:8; Phil 2:15; I John 3:1-2, 10)
 - ***huios*...a mature son**. Jesus began His earthly ministry after His Father introduced His “Son” to the world...“
 - ¹⁶ After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my **dearly loved Son**, who brings me great joy.” (Matt 3:16-17 NLT-SE)
 - “It is his recognition as an adult son, the attaining of his maturity, the seal upon his growth to maturity of mind and character. A child is one **born** of God; a son is one **taught** of God. A child has God’s **nature**; a son has God’s **character**.” R.B. Jones
- **Adoption**...In the Western world we think of adoption in terms of taking a child from one family and making it a member of another. However, the Greek or Roman father adopted as a son his own child. **Birth made him a child (*teknon*); adoption made him a son (*huios*)**. Between the period of birth and adoption, there were stages of growth, education and discipline, until the maturity was reached for adoption into sonship.
 - **With adoption the son was recognized as one who could faithful represent the father**. He had arrived at the point of maturity, where the father could entrust him with the responsibility of overseeing the family business. The son becomes the “heir” of his father’s inheritance. Birth gives one the **right** to the inheritance, but adoption gives one the **participation** in the inheritance.
 - ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are **sons (*huios*)** of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of **adoption (*huiiothesia*)** as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” (Rom 8:14-15 ESV)
 - ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son (*huios*), born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption (*huiiothesia*) as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons (*huios*), God has sent the Spirit of his Son (*huios*) into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son (*huios*), and if a son, then an heir through God. (Gal 4:4-7 ESV)
 - For in Christ Jesus you are all sons (*huios*) of God, through faith. (Gal 3:26 ESV)
- **“The Spirit of adoption”** is what is pushing us out of infancy (*teknion*), into maturity (*huios*). Author and prophetic voice, Paul Keith Davis says...

“We have misunderstood adoption. We are NOT orphans who have been adopted into God’s family! We have been “born again” by the Spirit of God! We are a “new creation in Christ!” We have been born of an “incorruptible seed.” We were “in Christ” before the foundation of the world!

- **The question we need to ask is:** What’s **NEW** about this commandment to love each other?
 - **John Piper** believes that the Gospel of John is a very personal recounting of history, deep affection, and drama.
 - Dr. Piper also believes John’s first letter should be considered a **commentary** on the gospel mediate he wrote. You can see evidence of that thought in the way John took the word, *teknion*, that Jesus used in this verse and used that same word to refer to those he was mentoring through his first letter, especially chapter 2.
 - Nowhere else in the New Testament does the term “**new commandment**” occur outside this story — except in John’s first and second letter. Of all the New Testament writers only John picked up on this term.
 - ⁷ Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment—to love one another—is the same message you heard before. ⁸ **Yet it is also new.** Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it. For the darkness is disappearing, and the true light is already shining. (1 John 2:7-8 NLT-SE)
 - Piper goes on to say...
 - The command to love each other is not new in and of itself. Leviticus 19:18 said, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” What appears to be new is **the way we are to love**, namely, “as Jesus has loved us.”
 - Never before had the Son of God come into the world and laid down his life for his people. That had *never* happened before. This degree of **greatness** making this degree of **sacrifice**, had never happened. This *is* new. **He wasn’t saying that we are to merely imitate Him**, but He was calling us to “live in the truth of this commandment.” (1 John 2:8)
 - Then John says in the next verse, “If anyone claims, ‘I am **living in the light**,’ but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is still living in darkness. Anyone who loves another brother or sister is **living in the light** and does not cause others to stumble. (1 John 2:9-10 NLT-SE). **In other words, what makes the disciples’ love for each other new — and this command for it new — is that they are not just copying the light, they are living (abiding, remaining) in this light. They are in the love of Jesus. This is how John sees the newness of this love.**
 - As we will see in a couple weeks, the details of how we work out this **new commandment** to love each other the way Jesus loves us is profound and clear. John writes about it in chapter 15 of his gospel:
 - ⁹ “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! ¹² This is my commandment: Love each other **in the same way** I have loved you. (John 15:9-12 NLT-SE)

- ³⁵ **For when you demonstrate the same love I have for you by loving one another, everyone will know that you're My true followers."**
- **What does it mean to be a "true follower" of Jesus?** John pondered very deeply the phrase "true followers or my disciples" and what must happen for that to be known. And what he concluded was that being a disciple means being truly born again. To be a disciple is not just about going to church or aligning yourself with Christian thought, but being **"miraculously changed by the Spirit into a person with a new heart of love for the Father and for Jesus and for his followers."** (Piper) And only **love** is how you can know this has happened.
 - 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. (1 John 4:7 NLT-SE)
 - **If we love** our Christian brothers and sisters, it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead. (1 John 3:14 NLT-SE)
 - So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and **does not love other believers** does not belong to God. (1 John 3:10 NLT-SE)
- Or as Jesus says in John 13:35, "When you **demonstrate the same love I have for you by loving one another**, everyone will know that you're My true followers..." All people will clearly see that you are born of God and know God. It will be obvious to them that you are a child of God and are in the light and no longer in the darkness. People will know you are truly a disciple of Jesus by whether you have been given a new heart of trust in Jesus and love for his followers.
- It is said that John, in his old age, would remind those around him **to love one another**. When questioned why he told them this so very often, his reply would be, "Because it is what our Lord commanded. **If it is all you do, then it is enough.**" ~ Jerome's Commentary on Galatians