

Title: A New Commandment

Text: John 13:34-35

Take your Bibles and turn with me to John chapter 13. The 13th chapter of John's Gospel. And I want to begin with Vs 34 on the topic: A NEW COMMANDMENT.

Now, for the past few months we have been looking at the PUBLIC MINISTRY OF JESUS. This was the theme of chapters 1 thru 12. We look at examples of how Jesus proclaimed His deity. The fact that He was God. And then we saw a building opposition to this claim. And we look at the three big things that cause great opposition. When Jesus claimed to be The Bread of life, Living Water, and the Light of the world, great opposition arose throughout the land, *which led to the cross.*

Now, today and in the weeks to come, I want to ^{Look at} come to the SECOND MAJOR SECTION in our study of this 4th Gospel. This is 2A on your outline. This second section, which includes chapters 13 thru 17, ^{which} deals with the INSTRUCTIONS OF JESUS TO HIS DISCIPLES. Here, Jesus is teaching what it means to be a Christian. He is also preparing his disciples for the cross... the resurrection..and their ministry following His ascension. So, these are very, very important chapters. We are going to learn from Jesus what our responsibilities are as a Christian. We will learn what Jesus wants us to do. Not what we think we ought to do. But, what Jesus tells us to do. These are ^{important} exciting chapters.

Now, I want to begin this ^{Series} SECOND SECTION at chapter 13 verse 34. And I want to ask you a question: WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER? What does it mean?

(Read Vs 34-35)

PRAYER

According to these two verses, the primary responsibility of every Christian is TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER. Jesus said.."a new commandment I give to you that you love one another. And by this action all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

So, our primary responsibility is to love one another. Now, I believe that! We ought to obey and love one another..RIGHT?.....RIGHT!

But, have you every ask the question: HOW?....HOW DO I DO THAT? How can ^{we} I show love one to another? How can ^{we} I fulfill this commandment?

Well, I would like to suggest a few words which describe HOW, we all might fulfill this number one responsibility. The Bible gives us 10 words or phrases that will help us demonstrate LOVE ONE FOR ANOTHER

(10) First we have the word "Assemble." Hebrews chapter 10 verse 24 says: "let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ^{not} forsaking our own assembling together."

If you were to ask a wife how to spell the word "love" she might spell it... T I M E... I don't understand how we can possible ^{love} one another without ^{spending Time Together} assembling together. "Don't forsake the assembling of yourself together."

We must spend time together if we are to love one another.

am I know it is hard, but if we continue to isolate ourselves..if we continue to have the concept of ..my own family, my own job, my own things, and let society effect us more and more, you are going to see less and less of what the Bible calls "body life." Spend time with one another. Bring believers into your home. Meet with them where ever you are. If we are to love one another, we must spend time together.

(20) Number two: the word "encouraging" one another. In Hebrews 10:25 we ~~also~~ read "But encourage one another." I Thess. chapter 5 verse 11 says: "Therefore encourage one another and build up one another."

What does the word "encourage" mean? I like the Greek meaning. Literal it means "one called along side of." Wow! A believer who comes along side of another believer and encourages him. He is willing to walk with him.. to wipe when he wipes..to rejoice when he rejoices..to identify himself with him..to be along side of him. If we ^{may we} are to love one another, we must encourage one another.

(3) Third, teaching and admonishing one another. Colossians 3:16 says: "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another."

All believers are instructed to teach one another. If we ^{may we love} ~~love~~ one another, there will be this element of teaching one another.

(4) Next, the matter of being subject to one another. I Peter 5:5 says: "You young men, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." If we are really loving one another, it demands

Subject to Ep 5:21 - Be subject one to another in love

(5) ^{5th} Next, let's notice the matter of hospitality. I Peter 4:8-9 says: "Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint."

Have you ever said: "Do we have to have them over tonight?" Or, "Well, they had us to dinner, I guess we should have them over."

Be hospitable to one another without complaint. So, if we are loving one another, hospitality is ~~part of our specific responsibility.~~ ^{how we demonstrate that love} ~~It~~ demonstrates love. Christians getting together with Christians,

(6) Sixth, the matter of having the "same mind." Romans 12:16 says: "Be of the same mind toward one another." By the way, this is just one of many references where the Bible tells us to have the same mind.

For example, in Philippians chapter 2 Paul says that we are to have the type of mind that is lowly and not to look upon our own deeds, but upon the good deeds of others.

Now, putting this together, what does it mean to have the same mind? In your association with other believers, but on your mind what is on their mind. Have you ever talked with someone and as you talk you know they are just waiting for you to finish so that they can tell you what is on their mind? Have you ever ran into that attitude? I am sure you have. And I am sure we have all committed this sin.

God says, "don't mind your own deed..mind the deeds of others." And when you have a person who is trying to have the same mind as his brother or sister in the lord, they are going to have the kind of relationship that is contagious..WHY? Because this brother or sister is going to know that you really care. Have the same mind one towards another.

(7) The seventh word is the word "Forgiving." This is a tough one. Ephesians 4:32 makes it very clear: "and be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ has forgiven you." Colossians 3:13 says: "bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you forgive."

I know this is one tough area of loving one another. But, when we are loving, we are forgiving one another for things that have been said and done among members of the body of Christ. Some folks just cannot bury the axe unless it is in your back. They carry ^{these axes} ~~them~~ all of their lives..often to their own hurts.

Did you notice that Paul didn't say to forgive in only those things that you know you are right? You see, a lot of the time we forgive only in those areas that we know we are right and the other person is wrong. OR... we are sure the other person will strighten it all out.

^{Dear Friends} ~~And~~ let us remember that we are to forgive as Christ forgave us. If you have a misunderstanding with some one, or you got your feelings hurt, whose responsibility is it to forgive? Whose? We say.."well, as soon as they come to me, then I will forgive...NO! NO! The Bible never puts such a condition upon forgiveness. FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER JUST AS CHRIST FORGAVE YOU. If we are to love one another, we will forgive one another.

(8) Next, we have the word "praying" for one another. Over and over again, we read in the Bible that we are to pray one for another. ^{For Example} James 5:16 says "to confess your sins to one another and pray for one another. PRAY...Do we pray for other christians? It is important to pray for those believers who are in your personal area of ministry. People who you share ministry with. So, that when you gather for fellowship it will be so much more meaningful because you know that you have been praying for them, and they for you.

(9) Then we come to the word "serving." Galations 5:13 tells us "not to use our freedom for an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." ^{The Word Serve} ~~THAT~~ MEAN? That means to be a slave to that other believer. To do anything he wants you to do. ^{That is what it means to serve}

Now, ..QUESTION..Do we really carry it to that end in terms of loving one another? To say to another believer...Listen, I am your slave..Whatever you want me to do, I will do it? Dear friends, loving one another means serving one another.

^{Finally}
(10) Next, bearing burdens..Galations 6:2 says, "Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ." What is the law of Christ? That you love one another. How do you show love? . By bearing one another's burdens. It is amazing how this all ties together.

You see, when we become involved in demonstrating love in these 10 areas..then others will know we are Christians. Do you see how it works? Tremendous principles from God's Word

Now, as I was studying all of this, it suddenly dawned upon me that there is only one thing that will hinder our ability to love one another. Do you know what that is? IT IS SIN IN THE BELIEVER'S LIFE....SIN...

^{How} the Bible spells out 5 specific areas...where sin will destroy LOVE..ONE...FOR ..ANOTHER...5 areas.

(1) Number one...James 4:11 says .."DO NOT SPEAK EVIL AGAINST ONE ANOTHER."

Dear friends, the quickest way to destroy your relationship with another believer is to speak evil of another brother or sister in Christ. There is nothing that will destroy a relationship faster than speaking evil about another person.

My mother taught me a long time ago: IF YOU CAN'T SAY SOMETHING NICE ABOUT SOMEONE..SAY NOTHING...The Bible says, "DO NOT SPEAK EVIL AGAINST ONE ANOTHER." When you do it is sin.

(2) Area two..THE BIBLE TELLS US TO COMPLAIN NOT AGAINST YOUR BRETHREN.

James 5:9 says, "Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the judge is standing right at the door."

This is not talking about the second coming of Christ. It is talking about right now. Be very careful that you complain not against one another. Least God judge you for your attitude.

Here is a great principle of life to remember: COMPLAINING FOSTERS COMPLAINING. It happens in a home...it happens at work...and it will happen in the church. Complaining destroys individual relationships and it will destroy the church.

(3) Area three...Lieing...telling lies...Eph. 4:25 and Col. 3:9 says "lie not one to another, speak truth, each one of you, for we are members of one another." Lieing is one of the five sins that God hates. You cannot demonstrate love when you are lieing.

(4) Area Four...provoking someone to angry. *Pro 20:2 Gal. 5:15* says.."Do not

provoke one another to angry." ~~Do you know what the root cause of provoking one another is?.... JEALOUSY.....~~ *Do you know how to provoke someone to anger? Ask a question. Dear friends, jealousy can destroy the relationship of one another faster than any other sin. PROVOKE NOT.*

(5) Area five..Romans 14:13 says.."Therefore, let us not judge one another any more. But, rather determine this...not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way."

Let me clarify what this verse is teaching. It is not referring to judging a non-believer. The Bible is very specific when it says we are to judge whether a person is a believer or not a believer. We are to test the spirits to see if they are of God. If someone is not a christian, we are to witness to them.

But, believers are not to judge other believers as to their spiritual growth and development. You are not to say that I am more righteous than another believer. You are not to say: "Look at that believer. He or she is a bad christian for not doing such and so; or for doing some thing that you have determined to be good or bad.

One way to just kill your relationship with another believer is to indicate that whatever he or she is doing is not acceptable to you. Even though that standard is not outlined in the Bible.

Example: Two christians live next door to one another. One Christian believes it is alright to cut his lawn on Sunday. The other Christian thinks it is wrong. And the one who believes it is wrong to cut your lawn on Sunday goes over and says to the one cutting his lawn: "Don't you know that it is wrong to mow your lawn on Sunday? God told me that it is wrong. So, I am here to tell you that it is wrong."

Now, what do you suppose is going to happen between those two Christians. Regardless---of whether one is right or one is wrong.....

Listen. dear friends, a wall is going to form right between them. And Satan will have his way..LOVE WILL STOP...And our witness will be hindered.

Jesus said...LOVE ONE ANOTHER." And when there is sin operating in one of these five areas , love certainly is not being deminstrated.

And that is where we need to apply I John 1:9: "If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

When sins are confessed...they are forgiven..And we can then fulfill the commandment of Jesus to love one another. And by that kind ^{of} ~~of~~ love all who cross our path will know that we are His disciples.

SHALL WE CLOSE IN PRAYER

Passion - Jesus Love at The Cross