

# Am I really a Christian?



## Your Not A Christian If You Do Not Love Others

John 13.31-35

### Main Idea

Christ was willing to sacrifice Himself for enemies in order that they might become friends...He calls us to do the same.

### Overview

#### **I. You must love just like Jesus loved His disciples**

- How did Jesus love?
  - John 15.12-13: Jesus' love was sacrificial
- Who is it sacrificial towards?
  - Romans 5.6-8 tells us that those "friends" in John 15 were once sinners or enemies (v 10)
- The way Christ loved was by sacrificially laying His life down for enemies:
  - Christ calls us to love just like that
  - 1 John 4.8-11, 20-21 illustrates the kind of love that God has for us and how it must not be lived
- The "NEWness" of Christ's command is its sacrificial nature as a representative of God's love for His own
- If Christ loved Enemies in order to make them "friends" we must do the same in our relationships
- The primary object of His New commandment was "one another" which in that context was His disciples:
  - The 40+ "One Anothers" of the New Testament are written to communities of believers
  - For Confessing Christians to obey those passages they must be meaningfully living in a community of believers

### Questions

Discussion Starter: *How would love be described in your favorite Romantic Comedy (movie)?*

1. Read John 13:1-35. Describe how Christ's call to love one another is grounded in God's Triune Nature (vss 31-32). How does God obey His Love for "one another" from eternity past? How is this significant for us as image bearers?
2. What is it that's "new" about the "new commandment"?
3. How are we to understand the "just like I loved you"? Take some time to describe the way Christ loves His own.
4. Describe what this kind of love looks like interpersonally. How about corporately?
5. In what ways would this have "all people to know that you are [His] disciples"?
6. Read 1 John 4.8-11, 20-21 to give a synopsis of all of these ideas.

Accountability Question: *What are some ways you need to love someone as Christ has loved you?*