

Why Follow Jesus? | Part 4

Lesson 4

John 13:34-35

March 3, 2024

He Redefines Terms

INTRODUCTION

If our boss, teacher, pastor, or other leader says, “I have a new order or direction today,” I think most of our ears would perk up, and we’d start paying attention. So much more when Jesus, Savior, Lord, and Creator of the Universe says, “A new command I give you”! OK! Is everybody listening? Then, He goes on to say, “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” What does that mean? We will dive into a demonstration next week when Jesus washes the disciples’ feet; the we would next day, He dies on the cross for the sake of the disciples and all future disciples as the ultimate expression of love.

We could imagine many reasons why He gives this command, but He provides only one, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” In other words, following His commandment of loving each other as He loved us is our badge of being His disciples.

Memory verse: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”— John 13:34

Pray, and read John 13:34-35. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?

1. What is “new”? (John 13:34a)
2. What is this command? (John 13:34a)
3. What does He want us to do? (John 13:34b)
4. Why does He want us to love one another? (John 13:34)
5. If we follow this command, what is the result?
(John 13:35)

3. What else is new in the Last Supper? What link might be between the new command in John 13:34 and what will be a major ritual of the church? (Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:17-20; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17)

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. In your own words, what does love one another mean? Do you love others at Portland Community Church as Jesus loves you and how He loved His early disciples? How about loving others in the broader church?

