

“The Definitive Mark of a Christian”  
John 13:34-35 and other selected scriptures

As Christians we have not always presented to the world the quality our Lord gave as the definitive mark of His followers. One of the consequences is that the world has scoffed and questioned the credibility of our faith. Today’s message addresses this issue.

Our biblical focus for this morning is also complementary to our adult Sunday school class where we are studying the 58 *one another* commands found in the New Testament. The most common of these is *love one another*, found 11 times in the epistles. When we add the 5 *love one another* commands found in the Gospels, the grand total comes to 16. The command to *love one another* is foundational to each of the *one another commands*. It was given by Jesus at His final Passover meal with His disciples: “A new commandment I give to you that you also love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another (John 13:34-35). It was on this occasion where Jesus also gave the definitive mark by which His followers would be known for all time and in all places. Because the apostles were so captured by their Lord’s new commandment, love became the most prominent focus in their epistles.

1. In His New Commandment, Jesus gave His followers:

- A higher \_\_\_\_\_ of loving.
- A greater \_\_\_\_\_ in their relational responsibilities.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ mark by which they and we would be known.

2. Jesus’ New Commandment would come to be embraced in the church as:

- The more \_\_\_\_\_ way. (I Corinthians 12:31–13:13)
- The perfect \_\_\_\_\_ of unity. (Colossians 3:14)
- The above-all prerequisite for relating to \_\_\_\_\_ people. (I Peter 4:8)

• The quality that is to permeate \_\_\_\_\_ we do. (I  
Corinthians 16:14)

• The mark without which we cannot say we are \_\_\_\_\_  
Christians. (I John 4:19-21)