

The Love Connection 2019-10-13

John 13:31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. 32 If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once.

33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.'

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Symbols can connect specific groups (swastika), action of group connect to leader (MLK).

- Cross connects to Christianity. Love links to Jesus Christ Himself & is defining mark of Christiann.
 - Jesus commands us to love one another as He loves us. John 13:31-32
- For Jesus death is not mournful gruesome tragedy but magnificent glorious triumph.
- 5 times form of "glorify" is used to describe both present suffering and future exaltation.

Present tense used for glory coming from imminent death on cross:

- Jesus glorified: reverse curse and ended Satan's power. Hebrews 2:14-15, 1 Corinthians 15:56
- Father glorified: all His attributes on display. Holiness, faithfulness, love, justice, mercy, grace, righteousness, forgiveness, wrath.

Jesus soon glorified in His suffering and then in His future exaltation (resurrection, ascension) probably causing confusion and feelings of abandonment in disciples. John 13:33

- Jesus knew it was difficult to understand what was happening, so He comforts w/paternal care/love.
 - Clearly John affected by "little children" ...that phrase is used only here and 7x in 1 John.

With Jesus' death & departure imminent, following Jesus physically no longer identifies His disciples, so they/we need other connection to Jesus/His disciples. John 13:34-35, Matthew 5:44, Leviticus 19:18

- Not entirely new command but "new" in focus (love spiritual family not just national or blood family) and standard (Jesus not Old Testament law). Matthew 5:27-28
 - Jesus commands us to love one another as He loves us.

Jesus loves us unconditionally: w/o requirements, performance, thought of return.

- Love other Christians w/o if's, demands, standards before show love.
 - Forgive immediately w/o requirements...especially undeserving.

Jesus loves us unselfishly. ... Cross supreme self-sacrifice.

- Verse 35 “agape” = to seek highest good of another. Philippians 2:3-8
 - Highest good for all = more like Jesus (holiness) & live for His glory.
 - Including: confront sin, allow consequence, not enable irresponsible.

Jesus’ love was costly.... massive suffering: physical, emotional, spiritual. *Gospel*

- Cost you physically (time, finances, comfort) and emotionally as enter messiness of other Christians lives.....Easier to love unbeliever!!!

Jesus loved not just w/words but also deeds (cross)...observable by all! 1 John 3:16-24

- Displays God’s transforming salvation as testimony to unbelievers.
 - Horizontal love for other Christians is proof of our vertical love for Jesus.

Evidence of salvation because impossible to live out in own strength!

- The measure of Jesus’ love for you & thus your standard described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
 - Put “Jesus” then “I” where “love” is= Can’t do that!

Not suggestion for happier life but command so only choice obey or disobey.

- What Jesus commands, He enables. John 14 Jesus promises Holy Spirit!
 - This love natural fruit produced when we abide in JC the vine.
 - Christians are conduits of Jesus’ love...We love other Christians w/His love.

Have new love for other Christians because we’ve experienced Jesus’ love for us.John 13:34-35

- Jesus commands us to love one another as He loves us.
 - An unconditional, unselfish, costly love one for another in words & deeds, especially toward frail, stumbling, sinning undeserving...like us!
 - When do by grace: lost connect Christians to Jesus & give Him glory.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love (Jesus, your name) is patient and kind;
love (Jesus, your name) does not envy or boast;
it (Jesus, your name) is not arrogant or rude.
It (Jesus, your name) does not insist on its (Jesus, your name
) own way;
it (Jesus, your name) is not irritable or resentful;
it (Jesus, your name) does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but
rejoices with the truth.
Love (Jesus, your name) bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.