

Characteristic 6: Extraordinary Love for People – John 13:34-35

Memory Verse - John 13:34-35: “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. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

1. Jesus said the world would recognize His disciples by their love (John 13:34-35). Why do you think love is a more convincing witness than Bible knowledge, church attendance, or winning arguments?
2. The sermon said, “One of the greatest apologetics for Christianity is love, and one of the greatest stumbling blocks is loveless Christians.” Have you ever seen either of those realities play out in your own life or experience?
3. In Matthew 25:35-40, Jesus identifies Himself with the hungry, thirsty, stranger, sick, and prisoner. Which of these groups is easiest for you to love? Which is most difficult? Why?
4. Jesus spent time with tax collectors and sinners (Matthew 9:9-13). Looking at your current relationships, how much meaningful interaction do you have with people who are far from God? What practical steps could help you love and influence lost people without compromising your faith?
5. The sermon challenged us to love across barriers (Ephesians 2:14-18; Galatians 3:27-29). What barriers are most likely to keep Christians from loving others well today (political, cultural, racial, economic, generational, etc.)? Which barrier do you personally need God’s help overcoming?
6. Jesus commands us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (Matthew 5:43-48). Is there someone in your life who is difficult to love right now? What would it practically look like to “overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:17-21) in that situation?
7. In Luke 7:36-39, the Pharisee saw a sinful woman, while Jesus saw a broken woman who needed grace. Are there any people or groups that you tend to view more like the Pharisee than like Jesus? How can you begin asking God to give you His eyes for them this week?