

GRACE POINT

Brand New Part 2: The New Commandment

Matt. 22:15-40, John 13:34-35,
Eph. 4:32, 5:1-2, 1 Cor. 13:4-5, Phil. 2:5,

1. What was most memorable, challenging, or encouraging from the message this week?
2. Has a leader in your life—parent, teacher, coach, or boss—ever put your needs ahead of their own? If so, what impression did that leader leave on you?
3. Read Matthew 22:34-40. Jesus presented a radical change in how the faithful should understand their relationship with God and one another. Faith is expressed in your vertical relationship with God and your horizontal relationships with people. How does Jesus' new command challenge the way you view your faith?
4. Love for God is best illustrated, demonstrated, and authenticated by love for others. What would it look like to truly love one another the way Jesus loves us?
5. Read John 13:34-35. The new covenant has one command: "As I have loved you, so you must love one another." How does this new command make following Jesus less complicated but more demanding than obeying the old covenant?
6. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), Jesus redefined "neighbor" to include everyone we come into contact with. We all know people who are difficult to love. What does Jesus-like love look like when you interact with that person?
7. Read Ephesians 5:1-2. What is one thing you can do this week to live out Jesus' new command by extending to the people around you the kind of grace Jesus has extended to you? If you follow through, how do you think it might change the dynamic in your family, at work, in your friendships, and even in your relationship with God?

MOVING FORWARD

Against all odds, a cult following a crucified teacher with no territory, military, or authority survived and multiplied. They were fueled by Jesus' new command: "As I have loved you, so you must love one another." It sounds as countercultural and revolutionary to our ears as it did to Jesus' disciples when they first heard it. It's way less complicated than the old covenant, but way more challenging.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Spend some time this week reading and reflecting on Matthew 22:15-16, 24-25, 33-40; John 13:34-35; and Ephesians 5:1-2.