

**A Key To Recovery**

***Love One Another***

**As I Have Loved You**

## John 13:33

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**John 13:33** Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You shall seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, I now say to you also, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

## John 13:34-35

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**John 13:34** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

**35** By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

# Review

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- In these days of crisis What is God doing?
- *From Adam's fall, He has been a God of recovery*
- Today He is recovering the Testimony of Jesus
- *The key to recovery starts in the hearts of His people*
- A key we're considering is "loving one another"

# Review

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## *Two essential aspects of recovery*

Personal intimate relationship with Him  
(vertical)

Love for one another  
(horizontal)

# What is This Love?

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- God is Love!!
- *It is the very character & nature of His life*
- Everything He does originates from His heart of love
- *A divine, self-sacrificing love with His end in view*
- A love which lays down it's life (dies) for another

## Setting of John 13-17

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**1** Now before the Feast of the Passover,  
Jesus knowing that His hour had come  
that He should depart out of this world to the Father,  
having loved His own who were in the world,  
He loved them to the end (uttermost)

## Setting of John 13-17

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- Last time with the disciples before the cross
- *Getting ready to demonstrate His love at Calvary*
- Tells of His keeping love throughout John 13-17
- *All He shares is to prepare them for what is ahead*
- He shares the blessing they have been brought into

## Setting in John 13

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- 1<sup>st</sup> He humbly washes the disciples' feet  
(don't understand)
- *Troubled in Spirit, He shares He will be betrayed  
(don't understand)*
- Judas leaves at this point
- *He is alone with the 11 remaining disciples*

## Setting in John 13

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- He shares with them our theme verses
- *He's going away; they can't come but He'll return (don't understand)*
- John 13 closes with Him telling of Peter's denial

## Message of John 13

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- Very private, intimate time with the disciples
- *NOTE: The very 1st thing He speaks to them about!*
- 1st thing: Most essential; Main thing-keep it
- *He gives to them is a precious spiritual treasure*
- A treasure which will keep them from stumbling

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## John 17:25-26

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- *He closes His time with them with a specific prayer*
- “THE Lord’s prayer” or “His High Priestly Prayer”
- *Just as the 1st thing He shared so essential*
- Also, the last thing shared is equally vital & essential

## John 17:25-26

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**25** O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me

**26** *and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.*

## John 13-17

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- Consider only a panoramic view of John 13-17
- *See the Lord's heart is 2-fold: Love & Unity*
- **Becomes reality by our hearts 1<sup>st</sup> being devoted & awakened to knowing Him, His heart & His purpose**
- *Only then can the testimony of Jesus be recovered*

## John 13-17

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**See His desire for our hearts to be  
woven together in unity with His heart  
for the achieving of His return & purpose**

## John 13-17

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See His desire for our hearts to be woven together in unity with His heart for the achieving of His return & purpose

*The unity of fellowship we have with the Father,  
the Son & the Holy Spirit*

## Recurring Message of John 13-17

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- Know this beautiful fellowship you've been brought into
- *Know the necessity of loving one another*
- Know how much the Father loves you, as Jesus does
- Know the person of the Holy Spirit & His work as our:  
*Helper, Comforter, Paraclete, Spirit of Truth, etc.*

## Overall Message of John 13-17

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- Our God is a God of purpose
- *He's doing the work of recovery with His end in view*
- He has made every provision for us during this process
- *There is complete security in Him*
- He will return & complete all He has begun

## Why 1<sup>st</sup> Thing Shared?

1<sup>st</sup> *He knows the challenges they'll face when He leaves*

- Their faith will be challenged by doubts, sufferings, fears, rejection, persecution, denials, etc.
- They'll need to stand together in the oneness they have in Him to overcome the challenges ahead of them

## Why 1<sup>st</sup> Thing Shared?

2<sup>nd</sup> He knows they don't always get along

- Mother of James & John asks for preference  
*Other 11 were indignant (Mt 20:24 & Mk 10:41)*
- Going to Jerusalem, argue who is the greatest.  
*(Mk 9:34 & Lk 9:46)*
- After Lord's Supper, argue who is the greatest *(Lk 22:24)*

# Why 1<sup>st</sup> Thing Shared?

*3<sup>rd</sup> He knows they do not know themselves*

- Peter denies he will deny Him: all agree with Peter  
(Mt 26:35 & Mk 14:31)
- James & John: sons of thunder (Mk 3:17)
- Desires they “be kept from stumbling” (Jn 16:1)

## John 13:33

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## “Little Children”

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- “My dear children”: implied intimate kinship
- *Only time this phrase was used by Christ*
- *A term of infinite tenderness (word His mother used when she found Him in the temple)*  
*(Lk 2:48)*
- Used later by John in 1 John (7xs)

## “Little Children”

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- Precious, tender word defines our relationship with Him
- *Word of consolation: “My dear little children”*
- Implies in His great love He knows their need for protection, guidance because of their weaknesses
- *Implied promise: He will never forget or abandon them*

## John 13:34

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**Vs. 34:** A new commandment I give to you,  
that you love one another, even as I have loved you,  
that you also love one another

## “A New Commandment”

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- A new source
- *A new nature: Originates from a new center of life*
- A newness of motive, scope & testimony
- *It also implies something that is fresh, full of life*

## “A New Commandment”

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- It is backed by a higher & purer example:
- *What is it?* His life
- *Christ in us! His life expressed through us*
- Source & motive: His Life: “as I have loved you”

**Why doesn't it sound entirely new?**

# They Asked Jesus: What is the Great Commandment?

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**Mat 22:37** and He said to him, You shall love the Lord *your God with all your heart, & with all your soul, & with all your mind. **38** this is the great & foremost *commandment.* **39** *the second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself* **40** on these two *commandments depend the whole law & the prophets**

## “A New Commandment”

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- What is the source of this OT love? SELF
- *NOTE: OT: “you shall” NT “He will”*
- Israelites not called to lay down a life for one another
- *So, what makes this a new commandment?*
- It’s a much richer commandment with a new source

## New Source: His Life & Love

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- What is this love? “Agape” not “phileo”
- *Not our natural love for God or for our neighbor but a love exemplified by the way He loves us*
- **Rom 13:10** “Love sums up the whole law”
- *A love universal in scope & application*

## “A New Commandment”

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He loved us more than Himself, as He died for us

*“His love is now to be seen through new vessels,  
reinforced by new motives & obligations,  
illustrated by new examples &  
obeyed in a new manner”*

## Impact on the Life of Peter

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- John 21: Lord asks Peter, “Do you love Me?” (agape)
- *Peter responded: “You know Lord, I phileo you”*
- Peter came into “agape” love in his life & in his death (see what he writes in 1 Peter)

## 1 Peter 1:22

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Since you have in obedience to the truth

*purified your souls*

for a sincere love of the brethren,

*fervently love one another from the heart*

# Impact of the Life of John

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- John's Gospel uses "agape" 37 times
- John in his 3 Epistles uses "agape" over 30 times
- Because of "agape" John called: Apostle of Recovery
- In his old age, he always said to those in Ephesus:

*"little children... love one another"*

# 1 John

**3:11** For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another

**4:21** *And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also*

**4:11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another

**4:1** *We love, because He first loved us*

## Let's be Clear

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- Jesus doesn't say "love one another" naively
- *He knows we can't keep His commandment*
- Loving one another: not a commandment impelling us from without but the very fruit of Christ's life in us
- *The 1<sup>st</sup> fruit of the Spirit is Love (Gal 5:22-23)*



*is*  
*Love*  
*Joy*  
*Peace*  
*Patience*  
*Kindness*  
*Goodness*  
*Faith*  
*Gentleness*  
*and*  
*Self-control.*

**The  
Fruit  
of the  
Spirit**

GALATIANS 5:22-23

The  
fruit  
of the  
Spirit is

*Love*

**Joy** is Love's strength  
**Peace** is Love's security  
**Patience** is Love's longsuffering  
**Kindness** is Love's conduct  
**Goodness** is Love's character  
**Faithfulness** is Love's confidence  
**Gentleness** is Love's humility  
**Self-control** is Love's victory

Galatians 5:22-23

# Conclusion

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- **God is a God of recovery**
- **He's recovering the testimony of Jesus**
- **Starts with our hearts captured by His love**
- **A key is loving one another as He has loved us**
- **Know the reality of the provision He has made for us**

