

## Discipleship - Session 17

### Continue the 6 Marks Of A True Disciple Mark # 5 of a true disciple. - LIVING LOVE

Things we will cover this lesson:

1. What is new about the new commandment.
2. What actions does *agape* prompt?
3. The two proof of our having *agape*.

Assignment:

1. Continue ALONE prayer log. (One day -- 1/2 hour.)
2. Communing Word log.
3. Pray 2 Peter 1:1-15 into your life.
4. Pray Marks 1 - 5 into your life.
5. Also go over the material you learned this session. Look up all the scriptures. Put this lesson to practice in your daily life.

## Mark # 5 of a True Disciple - Living Love John 13:34-35

John 13:34-35

34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

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

Why is this called a “new” commandment when the command to love others has been around for centuries? The problem is with our English language. We have only one word for “new” while the Greeks had two. Note the words in bold below. (The numbers are Strong’s numbering system of New Testament Greek words.)

John 13:34

<sup>34</sup> A **new** <sup><2537></sup> commandment <sup><1785></sup> I give <sup><1325></sup> unto you <sup><5213></sup>, That <sup><2443></sup> ye love <sup><25></sup> one another <sup><240></sup>; as <sup><2531></sup> I have loved <sup><25></sup> you <sup><5209></sup>, that <sup><2443></sup> ye <sup><5210></sup> also <sup><2532></sup> love <sup><25></sup> one another <sup><240></sup>. (KJV)

Matthew 9:17

<sup>17</sup> Neither <sup><3761></sup> do men put <sup><906></sup> **new** <sup><3501></sup> wine <sup><3631></sup> into <sup><1519></sup> old <sup><3820></sup> bottles <sup><779></sup>: else <sup><1490></sup> the bottles <sup><779></sup> break <sup><4486></sup>, and <sup><2532></sup> the wine <sup><3631></sup> runneth out <sup><1632></sup>, and <sup><2532></sup> the bottles <sup><779></sup> perish <sup><622></sup>: but <sup><235></sup> they put <sup><906></sup> **new** <sup><3501></sup> wine <sup><3631></sup> into <sup><1519></sup> **new** <sup><2537></sup> bottles <sup><779></sup>, and <sup><2532></sup> both <sup><297></sup> are preserved <sup><4933></sup>. (KJV)

3501 neos {neh'-os}

- new, recently born, young, youthful
- denotes the new primarily in reference to time, the young, recent. We might use the word *brand new* to describe what we are talking about.

2537 kainos {kahee-nos'}

- of a new kind, unprecedented, novel, uncommon, unheard of
- denotes the new primarily in reference to quality, the fresh, the unworn. We might use the word *renew* to describe what we are talking about.

If you had been very tired and you got a good night’s rest, you might say the next morning, “I feel like a *new* person.” In the Greek the word would be *kainos*.

The *new* bottles of Matthew 9:17 were really old bottles that had been refreshed by soaking them in oil, etc. Now they were considered *new* bottles. This new commandment is new because Jesus is teaching it to His disciples in the special way expressed here. Those were not *brand new* wine bottles and this not a *brand new* commandment. It is a *renewed* commandment. Jesus is restating in a new way what the old commandment had said.

The word for “love” in John 13:34-35 is the Greek word *agape*.  
Let us now try to define and/or describe “agape”:

Remember it is the next step after “philadelphia” in the 8 characteristics list.

*Agape* expresses the central nature of God. See 1 John 4:8, 16.

*Agape* is love because of the nature of the giver without any consideration of merit or worthiness on the part of the recipient. In other words it is the ability to love unconditionally.

*Agape* is seen in the action it prompts. -- see 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, 13

**There are two proofs of our having agape:** (as is expressed in our text verse)

**1. Keeping His commandments.** (*A new commandment I give to you...*)

John 14:15 <sup>15</sup> " If you love Me, **keep My commandments**. (NKJV)

John 15:10 <sup>10</sup> "If you **keep My commandments**, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. (NKJV)

1 John 2:4-5 <sup>4</sup> He who says, "I know Him," and **does not keep His commandments**, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. <sup>5</sup> But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. (NKJV)

1 John 5:3 <sup>3</sup> For this is the love of God, that **we keep His commandments**. And His commandments are not burdensome. (NKJV)

**2. Love of the brethren.** (*that you love one another*)

1 John 2:8-10; 3:14-18, 23; 4:7-11; 4:20-5:1

2 John 1:5

John 15:12-13, 17; 17:21

1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 26-27

Philippians 2:1-5

Galatians 6:2, 10

1 Peter 1:22

Galatians 5:22

**SUMMATION STATEMENT: In our church and the entire Christian community, we are called upon to live in a very special relationship with one another. If we can not do this, then we must reexamine ourselves to see if we are in the faith. Jesus has called us to a very high plane of spiritual living. The church must display to the world something radically different. True love for one another as called for by Jesus will be that radically different something. We must commit ourselves to overcoming our differences and letting love do its powerful work in us. When it does *all will know that we are His disciples!***