

# Journey of Faith

## Authentic Love

### John 13:31-38

**Introduction:** “The Mark of a Christian” & Arthur Pink, in his commentary on John, says it well: Jesus speaks to us clearly in John 13 about the true value of love for one another. This new command Jesus gives not only changes lives in the most powerful way, but also shows the world that we belong to Him.

#### I. Preparing the disciples (2 points)

A. His departure- Earlier in the Chapter Judas departs

1. Jesus speaks of His own departure- **John 13:31,32**
2. 5 times-- the word glory appears
  - a. Death not a gloomy reality but a glorious victory!
  - b. Delightful, not ugly
3. The disciples are confused once again, so He patiently expresses His care for them **John 13:33**
4. Jesus has a change of tone.
  - a. He speaks clearly/not mystically
  - b. Three hard facts they have to face.
    - (1). Departure is advancing quickly
    - (2). Confusion in their search for Jesus
    - (3). No one can go where Jesus is going
5. Certainly the disciples would struggle

B. His New Command: (Jo. 34-35)... and a new impact as well

1. The dynamic is a new one (not additional or different but fresh and unique)
  - a. Not the love of all people as in **Lev. 19:18**
  - b. It's a Christians' love for each other due to the great love Christ has for them
  - c. Jesus uses the word “agape” **John 13:35**
    - It means to seek the highest good of another - **Philippians 2:3-8**
  - d. This kind of love refuses to respond:
    1. Negatively
    2. To reject
    3. To command conditions
    4. To “nitpick the lint off someone’s soul”

#### **Unconditional Love**

2. Jesus set himself up as the standard and has given us the measuring stick for our love for each other

- a. Jesus is saying to the disciples:
  - I Left heaven because I love you
  - I called you to be mine, with full knowledge of your faults
  - I taught you even when you were closed minded and stubborn
  - I corrected you when you stepped out of line
  - I washed your feet on the way to my death
  - All this was for your highest good!
  - My interest was not in myself, but in you!
3. The impact of Jesus' words runs deep
  - a. All people will be influenced by this kind of authentic love
    - You can't fake this kind of love!
    - Nothing is more authentic than selfless attention
  - b. The word “know” in v. 35 is not an intellectual knowledge

1. A first hand observed knowledge/ a witnessing it in action
2. If we think the world wont respond to this kind of love than we haven't loved!

**-Our love for each other will be His distinctive badge of His ownership**  
**- The mark that matters most and makes a difference is the love that links us to Jesus**

## **II. Peter's response (Peter misses the new commandment!)**

A. Peter questions Jesus' purpose in **13:36,37 (Jesus must walk this one alone)**

B. Reality is predicted in v. 38 **Jesus' response draws blood**

### **Conclusion: Your response (three truths for loving one another)**

A. Authentic love is unconditional in its expression

1. No ifs attached to authentic love
2. No threats
3. No demands

B. Authentic love is unselfish in its motive (**1 Cor. 13:4-5**)

1. Not manipulative
2. It always looks out for #2 (**Phil 2:3-4**)
3. It gives without any thought of return

### **Illustration: Mothers wanting children so the can be loved...**

C. Authentic love is unlimited in its benefits

1. You walk away the winner
2. While encouraging others, so are you!
3. However, when you love this way, you become vulnerable
  - If you never step out, you'll never understand the fruit of authentic relationships

**To love at all is to be vulnerable--** Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket--safe, dark, motionless, airless--it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable."

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