



A Shepherding Church
“Hope Church 2025” Series
John 13:34-35
November 8, 2020
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this sermon we explain vision one of Hope Church 2025: A Shepherding Church –“Heart.”

The Text: John 13:34-35

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

1) A church’s vision for ministry needs to obey the three commands of King Jesus.

- *Love God – upward ministry*
- *Love Neighbor – outward ministry*
- *Love One Another – inward ministry*

2) Vision One: A Shepherding Church – think “Heart.”

Ephesians 4:11-12: ¹¹ And he gave ... shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ....

“The Church is the common mother of all the godly, which bears, nourishes, and brings up children to God, kings and peasants alike; and this is done by the ministry.” –John Calvin

3) What does “a Shepherding Church” look like?

- *Be Present*
- *Be Personal*
- *Be Persevering*
- *Be Practical*
- *Be Pastoral*

Response

Let us be a local church that intentionally manifests the love of God among our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Sunday Text Questions for John 13:34-35 (“Hope Church 2025” Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: When has a person in the church helped you practically or spiritually?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) How does John 13:33 set the context for the command Jesus gives his disciples in vv. 34-35?
- 4) What makes this commandment new (v. 34), or how does it expand and surpass similar expectations in the Old Covenant?
- 5) In v. 34, Jesus explains that our love for one another should match his love for us. What would that degree of love look like?
- 6) What does v. 35 teach us about how our love for one another is a form of evangelism to the world?
- 7) Read Ephesians 4:11-12. How does this passage reinforce the truth that every Christian is a minister in the church?
- 8) What would our church look like if every church member lived out John 13:34-35 and Ephesians 4:11-12?
- 9) What can Hope Church do to forge a culture that helps us become a “shepherding church?”
- 10) What steps can you take to obey Christ’s command to love one another at Hope Church?

Further study this week: Passages describing ways the church should practice love for one another: Romans 12:10, 15:5, 16:16 (Mon); 1 Corinthians 12:25 and Galatians 5:13 (Tues); Ephesians 4:2, 32, 5:21 and Colossians 3:13, 16 (Wed); 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Hebrews 3:13, 10:24-25 (Thurs); James 5:16 and 1 Peter 3:8 (Fri).