



**The New Commandment**  
**27<sup>th</sup> in the “Life in his Name” Series**  
John 13:31-38, p. 900  
April 7, 2019  
Pastor Mickey Klink

**Introduction**

In this passage God offers an introduction to Jesus’ Farewell Discourse and gives us the New Commandment.

**The Text: John 13:31-38**

1) Jesus explains his ministry and Christian discipleship in a speech called the “Farewell Discourse.”

*(a) What is the “Farewell Discourse?”*

*(b) What is the structure of the Farewell Discourse?*

*Prologue (13:31-38)*

*Statement 1: “I Am the Way and the Truth and the Life” (14:1-14)*

*Statement 2: “I will give you the Paraclete” (14:15-31)*

*Statement 3: “I Am the True Vine” (15:1-17)*

*Statement 4: “I have also experienced the hate of the world” (15:18-27)*

*Statement 5: “I will empower you by the Paraclete” (16:1-15)*

*Statement 6: “I will turn your grief into joy” (16:16-24)*

*Epilogue (16:25-33)*

*(c) What is the function of the Farewell Discourse?*

2) This is the secret plot of the Gospel: what humanity intended for evil, God intended for his glory (vv. 31-32, 36-38).

3) This is the secret plan of God: the church will display such a beautiful love among its people that the world will see Christ and his love (vv. 33-35).

*How can we make this happen here at Hope Church?*

*(a) Pray for a genuine love*

*(b) Focus on the Kingdom of God*

*(c) Remove any hindrances*

*(d) Spend time with church family.*

*(e) Fight the sinful bent of self-love*

**Response**

When we love one another, we experience God’s love for us and proclaim God’s love to the world.

## Sunday Text Questions for John 13:31-38

April 7, 2019

Pastor Mickey Klink

- 1) Starter Question: What kind of impressions (good or bad) have you seen a church make on the people in its community?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Vv. 31-32 explain that what Jesus is about to do, his death on the cross, is the means by which God shows his glory (i.e., his power, his victory, even his love). How do these verses, then, teach us to look at and think about the death of Christ?
- 4) Since this passage is the start of Jesus' Farewell Discourse, what does Jesus' use of the title, "little children," in v. 33 reveal about his care and affection for his disciples?
- 5) What is Jesus teaching us in v. 33 about his mission and the work he is about to undertake?
- 6) What is "new" about the New Commandment in v. 34, and is it similar or different from the command in the Old Testament to love God and neighbor?
- 7) How does the end of v. 34 take the love of God *for us* and direct it/command it to be a love of God *through us*, and what should this love within the church look like?
- 8) How is v. 35 possible, that the church's love for one another would be so attractive and winsome that it would announce to the world that God is at work in the church?
- 9) Peter clearly spoke poorly when he challenged Jesus in vv. 36-38. How would you respond to the question Jesus countered to Peter in v. 38 if it was asked of you: "Will you lay down your life for me?"
- 10) Concluding summary: What does this text teach us about *faith* (doctrine), *hope* (desire), and/or *love* (duty)?

**Further study this week:** Ephesians 4:1-16 on unity and love (Mon); 1 Peter 1:13-25 on holiness and love (Tues); 1 Peter 4:1-11 on grace and love (Wed); 1 John 3 on love among the children of God (Thurs); Matthew 22:34-40 on the Great Commandment (Fri).