

The One Commandment

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 13:18-38.

B. We often give simplistic answers to the world's problems.

II. Jesus was glorified when Judas left—His purpose was being fulfilled—and the Father was being glorified through the cross.

A. Jesus addresses the disciples affectionately as little children.

B. He tells them that this is the time of His departure marking the time for last instructions.

C. The command was to love one another as Christ loved them.

III. The command to love one another seems simple, but it is exactly what the world needs to solve its problems.

A. There is a dramatic secret here: we love as Jesus loved.

B. The cause is Jesus' love. The effect is that the believer's love will be like Jesus' love.

1. This love is without respect for persons.

2. It is expressed in deeds and not just words.

3. It is a love without end.

IV. Why some who call themselves Christians do not always manifest this kind of love.

A. The reason that Judas did not manifest this kind of love is because he did not truly receive the Lord.

1. The disciples were shaken because they could not believe that Judas would betray them.

2. One of the greatest signs of spiritual health among the disciples was that they were willing to ask if they would be the one who would betray Him.

3. When aid from Christ is refused, a person's condition has become desperate.

B. Peter expressed desire to go with Jesus.

1. Peter could not follow Jesus at that time because his love was the wrong kind of love.

2. Our natural affection is not good enough.

3. Our love must originate from Jesus to be true.

Application questions:

1. Why are all other answers to world problems oversimplifications without love?

2. What was the fundamental difference between Peter and Judas with regard to their love? Explain.

3. What are some ways you can be stretched in your love for others? How does this passage challenge you in this regard?
