Christ is Authentic!

(John 13:31-38)

6-29-2025

Introduction:

Jesus is the Messiah and Savior He claimed to be.

**** The lost world has the opportunity to see the evidence of an authentic Christ and Christianity.***

I. The <u>GLORY</u> He received with the Father (v.31-33)

II. The <u>LOVE</u> He exhibits in His disciples (v.34-35)

III. The <u>FOREKNOWLEDGE</u> He showed in His predictions (v.36-38)

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Introduction:

The stated purpose of John's Gospel is to demonstrate Jesus as the "Christ" (Messiah), "the Son of God" (Jn. 20:31).

Therefore, evidences of Christ's Messiahship and deity appear all throughout John.

Today we will examine three more authenticating proofs which validate His claims as Messiah.

To be "authentic" is to be real, genuine, bonifide. The lost world stands in doubt as to whether or not Jesus was and is the real Messiah and Savior.

But to us who know Him personally, He fully satisfies all of the criteria that we could ever expect from the Messiah and Savior.

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I. The <u>GLORY</u> He received with the Father (v.31-33)

v. 31
"The instant Judas was gone, the atmosphere was cleared, and Jesus began to instruct His disciples" (Wiersbe, p. 348).

Now that Judas Iscariot had left to perform his dirty deed of betrayal, Jesus fills his true disciples in on some details about His impending death and resurrection.

He also uses these last few precious moments together with them to encourage their hearts and to prepare them for what lies ahead in His absence.

John 13:31 – chapter 17 (five chapters) details our Lord's personal discussions with His disciples at this final brief time with them before His arrest and crucifixion.

"Now is the Son of Man glorified" - <u>Now</u> that Christ would accomplish that which He came for – which was to die for the sins of the world and to rise again.

Christ would be glorified by the events surrounding His crucifixion at Calvary. While He hung on the cross:

1) The dark sky in the middle of the day
2) The great earthquake
3) The torn temple veil

Then Christ would be glorified by His resurrection from the dead. His resurrection would be validated by:

1) An earthquake
2) An empty tomb
3) Bribes given tot he soldiers of the tomb in an attempt to cover it up
4) His appearance to all of His disciples and to over 500 people (1 Cor. 15:6), then to Saul of Tarsus

Then Christ would be glorified by His ascension to Heaven, as from the Mount of Olives He went up to Heaven with the Shekinah glory cloud as His chariot.

Christ would be glorified by His exaltation and reposition at the right hand of the Father with angels and all authorities doing homage to Him.

He who came to earth from Glory to obscurity would now go from relative obscurity back to His former glory, as John 17:1-5 states.

Not only was Jesus glorified, but the Father was also. **"God is glorified in Him"**

Because God's fullness dwells in Jesus, because Jesus is deity, every time that Jesus is glorified, God the Father is glorified.

v. 32
If God receives glory from Jesus Christ, it is God the Father's greatest desire that His Son be glorified and without any delay! (**"straightway"** or immediately)

That is why our church has one primary goal and that is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. We do not seek to glorify any man, saint or angel, but Jesus only!

The Father's interest to glorify His Son is due to the oneness He has with His Son. Hence, John 5:32 states: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

Christ is authenticated by the glory He receives even to this day by millions of people all over the earth.
v. 33
"Little children" – a term of endearment; and an expression of Christ's fatherly authority over those who belong to Him.
'Whither I go" – Jesus of course would go to Heaven (He would go to Paradise just a short time after this speech). And the disciples could not go there yet (v. 36).

II. The LOVE He exhibits in His disciples (v.34-35)

v. 34
"A new commandment" – In what sense is it "new"?

This command was given in the Old Testament. Leviticus 19:18 said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (cp. Mt. 22:39).

It is new in this sense: "Love…as I have loved you." Christ's model or example gives the command a while new perspective. We are to love each other the exact same way as our Lord has loved us.

Agape Love is a willingness to sacrifice something for the well-being of someone else.
It is a GIVING love (John 3:16).
It is derived from God Himself (1 John 4:7)

> 1Jo 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God (i.e. "from God"); and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

So, this type of love comes from God and is Unselfish, Unconditional, and Unending !
It is possible to express this giving type of love even toward your enemy (Mt. 5:44; Ro. 5:8)

> Mt 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;
>
> Ro 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

The word **"new"** does not mean "new" in time, but new in quality. A new, fresh ability to love with the resurrected Christ loving people through us!

This command to love is:

1) An obligation (not optional) (it's a command not a suggestion; to not love is to live in sin)

2) Volitional (a decision to obey, a choice)

3) Modeled in Christ (**"as I. . ."**)

4) Reciprocal (**"one another"**)

5) A testimonial (v. 35)

v. 35
"By this" – By your reciprocal, Christlike love.

People do not recognize us as Christ's disciples by –

--Our standards (dress, etc.), although standards are important

--Our doctrine (although doctrine is virtually important)

--Our denomination or creeds

--But by our love (and not merely our love for them [the unsaved] but by our love for each other in the family of God!)

Yes, we are to love the unsaved, but especially those who belong to Christ.

Galatians 6:10
As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.
What does the world think of the authenticity of your Christianity of they don't see you loving each other?

--You say Christ brings peace, yet you war with each other

--You say Christ brings joy, yet you rarely express it to your fellow brother or sister

--You say He forgives, yet you refuse to do so toward each other

--You call yourselves "family", yet you treat each other like enemies.

--You say you are born again, yet you gossip about, slander, and disrespect and dishonor those who belong to Christ.

"Behold how they love each other" was what those in the Roman world exclaimed as believers in the first century tangibly expressed love for other suffering saints.

"Behold how they love each other" ----- Today the statement could read, "Behold, how they shove each other" as they see Christians who can't get along; can't agree to disagree in an agreeable fashion.

"The disciples' responsibility was to love one another just as Christ had loved them. They would certainly need this love in the hours to follow, when their Master would be taken from them and their brave spokesman, Peter, would fail Him and them. In fact, all of them would fail, and the only thing that would bring them together would be their love for Christ and for each other." (Wiersbe, p. 349).

This love will be especially needed in the last days (when such love will begin to "wax cold") and the saints would feel a pressure to forsake the assembly (Heb. 10:25).

"My disciples" – Love is the hallmark of true believer. John emphatically states this fact in his epistle.

1 John 3:14
We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

1 John 4:20
If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

1 John 5:1
Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

> Our response to God's giving us the New Birth into His family is gratitude. We now love Him, because He has first loved us (4:19).
>
> "Loveth him that is begotten" - "Saint Augustine held that this phrase referred to Christ, 'the only begotten of the Father'." (Guy H. King, p. 100).
>
> It is true that if you love the Father you will love His Son (Jn. 8:42 - Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.)
>
> However, as Westcott saw, the whole context and book of I John would support the view that He is speaking of loving not only His Son, but His sons - "the children of God" (v. 2).
>
> "Loveth him" (singular) - John's use of the singular throughout this verse indicates that this God-prompted love operates on an individual basis.
>
> It's not merely that we love Christians (as a whole) (though we do). It's that we love the one sitting next to us.
>
> "This love does not spring from something loveable in the person himself, but from his paternity" (Hodge, cited by Hiebert, p. 225).
>
> "Everyone that loveth" - No exceptions; all who love God love His kids.
>
> If you find that you have no common bond with Christians, that you'd rather avoid them, that their company is undesirable – then you had better doubt your relationship to God.
>
> If you love the "Begetter," you will love the "begotten."
>
> If you love the "Adopter," you will love His adopted.
>
> If you love the Regenerator, you will love the regenerated.

If you love the Father, you will love the son.

You can't truly love someone and hate his kids (they are his family, his offspring, the object of is affection).

If you love God, you will love that which he loves/treasures.

The world may have a philanthropic, humanistic "love." A love for man motivated by a love for man (or by a love for self-recognition, etc.).

However, we have a greater motivation; we have a love for man because man is "created in the image and likeness of God." Hence, we love man because his life has a dignity that originated in the Almighty.

How can the Holy Spirit who lives in you do anything other than love others through you who share that same Spirit?

If Jesus live in you and if He lives in your fellow believer, don't you think that there will be a common bond between you? (regardless of skin color or race)

If you are in the family of God, won't there be a desire to be with your family members?

--Ladies should want to come to the ladies fellowships;

--Men should want to be at the men's breakfasts;

--Christians should love to get together with other Christians.

To defect is to give indication that something is wrong (I Jn. 2:19 - They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.)

To love other believers should be as natural as loving your own family, because we are family, real family.

We know the same God.
We are partakers of the same Spirit.
We are joint heirs with the same Son (Jesus Christ).
We share the same faith.
We eat the same food (God's Word).
We have the same name ("Christian").
We will inherit the same future (eternal life).
We face the same battles.

Christ is authenticated when the world sees an authentic Christ-like love.

III. The <u>FOREKNOWLEDGE</u> He showed in His predictions (v.36-38)

v. 36
"Whither goest thou?" – It's almost like Peter never caught on to what Jesus said about love in verses 34-35. He makes reference back to verse 33.

"Thou shalt follow me afterwards" – Peter could not go to Heaven (Paradise) yet. God had more work for him to accomplish on earth.

v. 37
"Why can't I go to Heaven with You now?" Peter asks. He then vows to give his life as a martyr for Christ.

v. 38
But Jesus with His omniscient mind predicts Peter's denial.

He knew Peter's fears, He knew Peter needed the Holy Spirit's baptism and power before such a sacrifice would really take place.

Jesus knew <u>what</u> Peter would do, <u>when</u> he would do it, the details surrounding the denial (**"the cock…crow"**).

Christ is authenticated by His miraculous powers, especially His power to predict the future!