John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

v. 34

"A <u>new</u> commandment" – In what sense is it "<u>new</u>"?

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…<u>as I have loved you</u>." 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.

VINNY IMPORT NOTES ON AGAPE LOVE

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

This command to love is:

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

2) <u>Volitional</u> (a decision to obey, a choice)

3) <u>Modeled</u> in Christ (**"as I. . ."**)

4) <u>Reciprocal</u> (**"one another"**)

5) <u>A testimonial</u> (v. 35)

v. 35

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

People do <u>not</u> recognize us as Christ's disciples by –

--Our <u>standards</u> (dress, etc.), although standards are important

--Our <u>doctrine</u> (although doctrine is virtually important)

--Our denomination or creeds

--But by our <u>love</u> (and not merely our love for <u>them</u> [the unsaved] but by our love for <u>each other</u> 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?

VINNY IMPORT NOTES ON 5:1

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