

“What is the Mark of a true Disciple?”
John 13:31-35

I. Jesus loved His disciples by giving up His life and dying for them (vs. 31-33).

- A. Jesus was glorified by God the Father.
- B. Jesus was glorified by His death and resurrection.
- C. Jesus’ death and resurrection to save souls shows God’s character.

(Matthew 16:21; 20:18-19; John 5:41-44; 7:14-18, 33-34; 8:21, 50-55; Ephesians 1:19-21; Philippians 2:8-11; 1 John 4:7-10)

II. Jesus gives His example as the way we are supposed to love each other (v. 34).

- A. Jesus gave a standard that had never been given before.
- B. Jesus’ disciples should love each other just as Jesus loved them.

(John 15:12-14; Ephesians 5:1-2; Philippians 2:2-3; 1 Peter 2:21-23)

III. Jesus established our love for other believers as the mark of His disciples (v. 35).

- A. The one who has love for the disciples of Christ shows that he has passed from death to life.
- B. The one who does not love the disciples of Christ shows that he abides in death.

(1 John 3:10, 14, 18)

Scripture References and Notes

“Throughout history people have identified themselves as followers of Jesus Christ by various external marks, such as special clothes or even distinctive haircuts. In more recent times some have worn lapel pins, crosses or other jewelry, donned clothing with a Christian theme, affixed Christian bumper stickers to their cars, or sipped their coffee out of mugs emblazoned with a Christian logo.

These external displays of loyalty to Christ are not necessarily wrong, and at times can be helpful in drawing attention to one’s Christian testimony. But it is not such superficial, outward symbols that ultimately mark a true follower of Jesus Christ; it is the internal attitudes of the heart. Only those whose hearts have been transformed by the redeeming grace of God are his children.”

– John MacArthur, *John 12-21*, 83-84.

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing *than others*? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?⁴⁸ Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Luke 6:31-35

³¹ Treat others the same way you want them to treat you. ³² If you love those who love you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is *that* to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same *amount*. ³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil *men*. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Ephesians 1:19-21

¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might ²⁰ which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Philippians 2:8-11

⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 5:41-44

⁴¹ I do not receive glory from men; ⁴² but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. ⁴³ I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him. ⁴⁴ How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the *one and* only God?

John 7:14-18

¹⁴ But when it was now the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and *began to* teach. ¹⁵ The Jews then were astonished, saying, “How has this man become learned, having never been educated?” ¹⁶ So Jesus answered them and said, “My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me. ¹⁷ If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or *whether* I speak from Myself. ¹⁸ He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

John 8:50-55

⁵⁰ But I do not seek My glory; there is One who seeks and judges. ⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he will never see death.” ⁵² The Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets *also*; and You say, ‘If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste of death.’ ⁵³ Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out *to be*?” ⁵⁴ Jesus answered, “If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God’; ⁵⁵ and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His word.

Matthew 16:21

From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

Matthew 20:18-19

¹⁸“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, ¹⁹and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify *Him*, and on the third day He will be raised up.”

John 7:33-34

³³ Therefore Jesus said, “For a little while longer I am with you, then I go to Him who sent Me. ³⁴ You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come.”

John 8:21

Then He said again to them, “I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come.”

1 John 4:7-10

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

Ephesians 5:1-2

¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; ² and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

1 Peter 2:21-23

²¹ For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, ²² WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; ²³ and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

John 15:12-14

¹²“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do what I command you.

Philippians 2:2-3

³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

1 John 3:10

By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

1 John 3:14

We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

1 John 3:18

Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.