

The 7 Hardest Things You Will Ever Do

Love the Way that Jesus Loves

John 13:34-35

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Introduction to Text: We are in a series of messages called, “The 7 Hardest Things You Will Ever Do.” We have talked about (1) Taming the Tongue, (2) Replacing Worry with Trust (3) Confessing Sin without Making Excuse, and (4) Being Patient while Praying. We have said that these are equally difficult. Today, our subject is “Love the Way that Jesus Loves.”

Text: ³⁴ "I give you a new commandment: love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Introduction: To do anything like Jesus is an incredible challenge. The call of God upon our lives as Christians is to love everyone just like Jesus—our family, our friends, strangers, and yes, even our enemies. *God, help us to love like you love, because this is one of the hardest things we will ever do.*

Do we really have to love as Jesus loves?

- John 13:34 says that this is a commandment.

I give you a new commandment: love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another.

A theologian of the Christian Reformed Church - Scott Hoezee – writes this:

“If you study the life and words and parables and sermons and actions of Jesus, you will find an eternity's worth of things you should do. But there was precisely just one thing which was so vital that Jesus actually went so far as to phrase it as a command, and that was to love each other.”

In other words, there is plenty by way of inference that we could say that Jesus commanded us to do, but here is the only saying that we are explicitly given as a command.

- Romans 8:29 says that we are being conformed to Jesus in every area of our lives.

For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers.

We know that we are to love as Jesus because we are to be “becoming like Jesus.”

- 1 John 4:13 says that this is how we confirm our relationship to Jesus.

This is how we know that we remain in Him and He in us: He has given to us from His Spirit.

What is the Meaning of Loving as Jesus?

That is, how do we communicate what it means to love like Jesus.

We have an example! John 13:15

For I have given you an example that you also should do just as I have done for you.

The example that He has given us in the washing of the disciples' feet.

- Our love for people should be consistent.

2 Observations about the way that Jesus loves:

(1) Love for the friend is consistent with our love for the enemy.

Judas was present.

(2) Love is not based on the expectation of love in return.

- Love should call us to put others first.

Ultimately, this foot washing scene is an act of humility. When you know who you are in Christ, this is easy to do. (Notice verse 3)

- Love for others should be unmistakably clear.

➤ Demonstration

➤ Meets Needs

Foot washing met a real need in the first century world.

How will I ever love the way that Jesus loves?

To love the way that Jesus loves we must understand that love is a fruit of the Spirit. **So,**

Pray Pray Pray Pray

- For Yourself
 - For Them
 - About Them
 - With Them