

John 13:31–14:3 — “Love Like Jesus”

We love like Jesus when we trust who He is, live in the truth of who we are, and rest in where He is leading us.

Biblical / Cultural Context

Jesus knows the cross is hours away, Judas has just left to betray Jesus, and the disciples are confused and unsettled. Instead of focusing on their coming failure, Jesus anchors them in truth—Jesus speaks about His glory, His love, His identity, and their future with Him. He is going to the Father, preparing a place, and revealing Himself as the only way. Knowing who Jesus is and where He is going gives His followers the security needed to love sacrificially.

Passage Outline

- **I. We Are Commanded to Love Like Jesus (John 13:31–35)**
 - **II. We Cannot Love Like Jesus While We Openly Deny Jesus (John 13:36–38)**
 - **III. We Can Love Like Jesus When We Know Who We Are In Christ (John 14:1–3)**
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I. We Are Commanded to Love Like Jesus (John 13:31–35)

 **Jesus’ sacrificial love, displayed at the cross, becomes the standard by which His disciples are recognized in the world.** Knowing He is about to depart, Jesus tenderly prepares His disciples for life without His physical presence and gives them a defining mark for their witness in the world. This new commandment—to love one another as Jesus has loved them—becomes the visible evidence to the world that they are His disciples.

-  **Love others with the same sacrificial love Jesus has shown you.**
 - *Have we defined love by comfort or convenience rather than Christ’s example?*
 - **Love others intentionally and sacrificially, remembering that Christ’s love for us sets the standard.**

II. We Cannot Love Like Jesus While We Openly Deny Jesus (John 13:36–38)

📌 **Loving like Jesus is impossible when we rely on ourselves instead of humbly submitting to Him.** Though Peter confidently claims he would die for Jesus, Jesus exposes the gap between Peter’s words and his readiness to live in humble obedience. Peter’s denial shows that love for Christ cannot be sustained by self-confidence or emotional zeal, but only by submission to Christ’s word and dependence on God’s strength.

- 💡 **Walk humbly with Jesus by acknowledging your dependence on Him.**
 - *Have we relied on self-confidence instead of Christ’s strength?*
 - **Walk humbly with Jesus by trusting and applying His word daily, because apart from Him we cannot love as He calls us to.**

III. We Can Love Like Jesus When We Know Our Identity in Christ (John 14:1–3)

📌 **When believers know who they are in Christ and where they are going, they are freed to love like Jesus without fear or anxiety.** Jesus does not call them to try harder, but to keep believing—just as they have believed in God, they are to continue believing in Him. By promising a prepared place in the Father’s house and His personal return, Jesus grounds their identity not in their failures, but in their secure future with Him.

- 💡 **Rest in your identity and future in Christ so your heart is not troubled.**
 - *Are we living with anxiety because we’ve lost sight of who we belong to?*
 - **Find peace and confidence in Jesus, trusting that He is preparing a place for us and that our future with Him is secure.**

📖 **John 13:34 (NKJV)**

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”

🙏 Father, thank You for the love Jesus has shown us and for the truth He has spoken over our lives. Help us trust fully in who He is, live confidently in who we are in Christ, and teach us to love others with the same grace, humility, and faithfulness Jesus has shown us.

In Jesus’ Mighty name, Amen.