

PROOF THAT ONE IS A CHRISTIAN

John 13:34-35

Introduction: "Love" is a word that is used in many different ways and seems to have many different meanings in our language, however God's kind of "love" has only one test to prove itself and that is "obedience." Jesus obeyed the Father and Christians "obey" the Lord Jesus.

The world has a kind of love but its kind of love can bring hurt, pain, heartache to those being loved, such as husbands, wives, children and parents. What the world calls "love" is not God's kind of love. God's love is the rarest kind of all.

Christians are sent by Jesus into the world to LOVE one another but it seems as if we (Christians) compete or dispute and quarrel more than we "love." No wonder the Church and the Christian has little influence in the world. Note the kind of "love" Jesus had:

I. JESUS LOVED SELFLESSLY

1. Jesus never thought about getting something back when He showed love.
 - Our love seems to require something back in a positive way.
 - If we are ever hurt or don't get back "love" we refuse to "love" that person anymore.
 - It is actually our own satisfaction we are seeking when we "love." (Like making an announcement of how good we are).
 - Jesus desired to do something for His disciples that He alone could do - Love them as they were.
 - Selfless love is a ONE way street with no thought of ever receiving anything back.

II. JESUS LOVED SACRIFICALLY

1. There was NO limit to what Jesus' love would Give.
 - The Cross was where Jesus' love ultimately took Him.
2. There was no Demand that was ever too much.
 - Jesus' love for His disciples brought Him much pain and disappointment.
3. To love "sacrificially" as Jesus did will Cost the Christian in time, energy, money, sleep, etc.

III. JESUS LOVED UNDERSTANDINGLY

1. Jesus knew all about His disciples, their strength, their weaknesses, their slowness to learn, YET He still loved them.
2. Those who love us most are those who know all about our worst, YET they still love us.
3. Jesus' love is OPEN-EYED love. It loves what it sees and not what it imagines. It takes one for what he/she is, good and bad, just like us.
4. The world's love requires a certain standard be reached before any "love" is bestowed.

5. Jesus' love loves just as people are.

IV. JESUS LOVED FORGIVINGLY

1. The "leader" of the disciples (Peter) denied Jesus.
2. Everyone who ever followed Jesus deserted Him.
3. When Jesus needed a friend, there was nobody.
4. Jesus' disciples were selfish, blind to His needs, insensitive, slow to learn and non-understanding, cowards - YET Jesus held nothing against them.
5. There was nothing Jesus wouldn't forgive them of.
6. The world's "love" shrivels up and dies when it has been hurt or insulted, lips pouch out, hurtful words are spoken, friendships broken, sides taken, drop outs.
7. It is Jesus' love the Christians **MUST** exhibit and that love is built on forgiveness. Without forgiveness, there is no real live.

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus' love is not easy and only a Christian can love as Jesus loves.
2. Jesus' love can be exhibited only by Christians **ONLY** while obedient to Jesus' commands.
3. Jesus' love does not come out of human nature, it is from the Holy Spirit. Therefore obedience to Jesus' commands is essential in enabling the Christian to love as Jesus loves.
4. Only when a Christian is obedient to Jesus' commands can the world tell him/her apart from the rest of the world. Loving as Jesus loves is the **KEY** to being different.