



February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026  
*True Disciples Love As  
They Have Been Loved*  
John 13:33-38

1. What does Jesus' use of the phrase "little children" reveal about His relationship with the disciples?
2. How does our culture typically define love, based on the phrases mentioned in the sermon? Why is it dangerous when love is defined apart from the truth of the Bible or of obedience to Christ?
3. In what sense is Jesus' command to love "new," and in what sense is it not?
4. Why does Jesus set Himself and His actions (and not our feelings or effort) as the standard of love? Look at Ephesians 4:32-5:2 and discuss how Jesus is the standard and motivation for any of our acts of love towards each other.
5. In what ways do we overestimate our spiritual strength, like Peter? How does Jesus' calm response and loving actions to Peter shape the way we view our own failures?
6. Why does Jesus say this kind of love will *identify* His disciples to the world?

7. According to Jesus (and brought out by Francis Schaeffer's quote), what right does the world have in evaluating the church? How are we doing at this as a church? As a community group?

*The church is to be a loving church in a dying culture. How, then, is the dying culture going to consider us? Jesus says "by this shall all people know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another." In the midst of the world, in the midst of our present culture, Jesus is giving a right to the world. Upon his authority he gives the world the right to judge whether you and I are born-again Christians, on the basis of our observable love toward all Christians. That's pretty frightening. Jesus turns to the world and says, "I've something to say to you. On the basis of my authority, I give you a right: you may judge whether or not an individual is a Christian on the basis of the love they show to all true Christians." ~ Francis Schaeffer*

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### **Schedule for Memorizing John 15:1-17**

**January 11 - John 15:1-2** "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

**January 18 - John 15:3-4** Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

**January 25 - John 15:5-6** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

**February 1 - John 15:7-8** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

**February 8 - John 15:9-10** As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

**February 15 - John 15:11-12** These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

**February 22 - John 15:13-15** Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

**March 1 - John 15:16-17** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.