

Sermon series: Life to the Full; delivered by Dr. Josh Moody, senior pastor, on January 20, 2019

Bible text explored: John 13:31–35

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³²If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ ³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” [ESV]

Review and application:

1. Why (vv. 31-32) do you think Jesus designated Judas’s departure as the launching hour of his glory?
What makes the glory of the Father closely linked to that of the Son, and *vice versa*?
2. How (v. 33) does the affectionate term Jesus uses for his disciples illustrate the love he will call on them to make their own?
3. In what sense is this new command (v. 34) not really new?
(See *Lev. 19:18; Luke 10:25-28.*)
But how does the way Jesus conveyed it to his disciples set the bar higher?
How authoritative did the author of this Gospel account consider this command to be in his other writings?
(See *1 John 3:23 and 4:11, 21.*)
4. The power to put Jesus’ new command into practice comes from grasping the full significance of his words, “just as I have loved you.” Have you asked Jesus to reveal to you the full extent of what he did for you on the cross?
Have you ever made time to meditate on the many ways he did, and does, love us?
5. What (v. 35) did Jesus say would convince people that we really are his disciples?
Have we embraced this as an essential component of effective witness?
How did early Christians demonstrate this mutual love to their hostile contemporaries?
6. Have you realized that “cross-shaped love” for a difficult someone in your life is basic to your witness?
To whom in our church family could you offer assistance or encouragement?
From whom could you receive the “powerful warmth” of a helping hand?