

**The New Commandment:
Love One Another
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In John 13:34 Jesus said "Joh 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another". Is love a new commandment? Jesus said in Mark 11 that all of the law of Moses was based on love; to love God (Deut. 6:5) and to love your neighbor as yourself (Lev. 19:18).

Perhaps it was not just a new command, but an entirely new basis of law that Jesus spoke of. In Romans 8:2 we are told that the law of Christ replaced the law of Moses. Moses law was one of penalty (Rom. 1:27-32) and without mercy (Heb. 10:28). The law of Christ is repeatedly described as one based on the concept of love itself (Rom. 13:8-10, Gal. 5:14, Jam. 2:8).

We might consider too that the level of love Jesus was expecting was not just the level of loving ourselves and the measure; it was also the level of the love Jesus had for us. Love One Another becomes the First Law of the Law of Christ:

1. "...Love one another..." (John 13:34)
2. "...Love one another..." (John 13:34)
3. "...Love one another..." (John 13:35)
4. "...Love one another..." (John 15:12)
5. "...Love one another" (John 15:17)
6. "...Love one another..." (Romans 13:8)
7. "...Love each other." (I Thessalonians 4:9)
8. "...Love one another deeply, from the heart." (I Peter 3:8)
9. "...Love each other deeply..." (I Peter 4:8)
10. "...Love one another." (I John 3:11)
11. "...Love one another." (I John 3:23)
12. "...Love one another." (I John 4:7)
13. "...Love one another." (I John 4:11)
14. "...Love one another." (I John 4:12)
15. "...Love one another." (II John 5)

Why is love such an important fundamental of this new law? First, we are told in 1 Corinthians 13 that it will never fail. That could be seen as saying it will never let us down when committed to it for results. It is fervent (1 Pet. 1:22, 4:8). If we dwell with fervent love we are able to overcome any obstacle (and we are not victims of the behavior of others). This law actually leads us to have better lives.

Jesus said "*By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*" (John 13:35). Our love for one another is how the world will be able to know we are His. That means that love must be learned and put into practice. Practicing Divine Love has immeasurable reward.

