

***The Expectations of New #7:
The Newness of Agape***

John 13:31-35 ³¹When Judas had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him. ³²If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify the Son in Himself—and will glorify Him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little while longer. You will look for Me, and as I said to the Jews, so now I say to you: ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.” (BSB)

Intro: As English-speaking Americans, we have a one-size fits all word for love. This can mean so many things. The Greek word used here for love is agape. It is a self-sacrificing love. This kind of love is different from eros, sexual love. It is also different from philia, brotherly love. It is also different from storge, love for child or relative.

- I. Here are some important details regarding Agape from this passage.
 - A. Jesus is trying to let the disciples know that He is about to be crucified, buried, resurrected and ascended. V. 31-33
John 16:7 But I tell you the truth, it is for your benefit that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. (BSB)
 - B. Jesus is modeling Agape for them. V. 34
 - C. Agape will be the proof of their discipleship. V. 35
- II. What can we learn from this “new command”?
 - A. Agape love is not limited to a passionate relationship, a close friend, or a family member. We must be willing to do what is best for others even if it costs us and is not reciprocated back to us.
 - B. Agape love is always given out of the reserve that we have received from Jesus Christ. If we struggle loving in this manner we must go back and receive the love of God.
 - C. Agape love will draw others to God through us. If we are not drawing anyone, we must see this as a sign that something is wrong.