

Title: LOVE ONE ANOTHER, JOHN 13:31-35.
(Chatham, NJ; 05/02/10, AM) [Pd – Expository]

Theme: At his departure Jesus reminded his followers that love was to be the dominant characteristic of their community.

Purpose: To remind the audience that Christ is present when we love one another.

Introduction:

1. Judas has just left the dinner party; he will betray Jesus.
2. It signals the climax of his ministry.
3. John 13:31-35 introduces his Last Supper discourse.
4. He mentions his glorification, his departure, and how he expects the disciples to behave.
5. Each topic revolves around a relationship: to the Father, to them, and to one another.

I. Glorification: Jesus' Relationship with the Father.

- A. He refers to his death, resurrection, and return to God.
 1. The cross is the glory and wisdom of God, 1 Corinthians 1:22-25.
 2. The Father is glorified when the Son submits to his will, and his will is that he must die for men's sins.
 3. Their glory is shared (32).
 4. God redeems man; he has always been Israel's redeemer.
 5. His work conquers death; it demonstrates God's redemptive power against our greatest enemy.
- B. There is a shared glory.
 1. The Father is glorified when Jesus answers prayers for the disciples, 14:13.
 2. The Holy Spirit comes only through the intercessory work of Christ with the Father, 14:16.
 3. The disciples are loved by the Father because they have loved the Son, 16:27.
 4. Jesus will receive back the glory that he had before the world existed, 17:5.

II. Departure: Jesus' Relationship with Them.

- A. The group is losing him.
 1. He uses a very personal term: little children.
 2. It is a term of endearment.
 3. John uses the term frequently in his letters.
 4. It expresses Jesus' feelings toward them.
 5. Could it be that his departure hurts him as well?
- B. It is to their advantage that he leave.
 1. The Holy Spirit will come only if he leaves, 16:7.
 2. Their sorrow will quickly turn to joy, 16:20-22.
 3. Their separation from Jesus means they must carry on the work for him.
 4. His departure anticipates him coming back to provide a new home, 14:1-3.
 5. Thus they must not be troubled.

III. Love One Another: Their Relationship to One Another.

- A. Internal harmony is one sure sign of health.
 - 1. The churches that John new about were suffering from internal strife due to doctrinal error, 1 John 2-4.
 - 2. They needed this reminder that Christ was present when they loved one another.
 - 3. John says that whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.
 - 4. Love is therefore an even more powerful indicator of God's presence than any of the miraculous gifts given by the Holy Spirit.

- B. How is this a new commandment?
 - 1. A new time in the life of the world...
 - 2. Only now had Jesus begun to speak in this way so openly...
 - 3. The nature of their love was based on how he had loved them (1 John 3:16).
 - 4. Though love for God was at the heart of the Law, the demonstration of love in Christ was revealing and thus new.

- C. The true idea of love.
 - 1. Not some sexual or emotional encounter.
 - 2. Love keeps commandments, John 14:15 & 21
 - 3. Love acts, 1 John 3:16-18, and it acts sacrificially, John 15:13.
 - 4. Love is something you do not merely something you feel.

Conclusions:

- 1. Love derives its power from the demonstration of God's love in Christ, John 3:16.
- 2. This reflects their glory.
- 3. It is this legacy that Christ must leave them with.
- 4. Yet it means he is present in the community.
- 5. When we love, we demonstrate that we are of God.