

The Jesus Way: Building a Life of Christlike Relationships (1)
A New Command for a New Community
(John 13:1–17, 34–35)

Introduction: Jesus gives His followers a new command—to love one another with the same sacrificial, servant-hearted love He demonstrated. Christlike love is the non-negotiable mark of true discipleship. This forces us to evaluate our attitude toward others. Consider where you can practice sacrificial love, humble service, or forgiveness this week.

I. The model of love – Christ’s servant example (John 13:1–17)

A. The scene is the last super - John 13:1: Jesus loved His own to the end.

B. The surprise - Jesus washes the disciples’ feet (John 13:3–5)
Lk. 22:24 (Disciples argued about greatness) Phil. 2:5–8 (Christ’s humility)

Max Lucado “*Hands that shaped stars now wash away filthy feet.*”

C. The struggle - Peter’s objection and Jesus’ teaching on spiritual cleansing (John 13:6–11)

D. The standard - Jesus explains His actions: we must serve one another (John 13:12–17)

E. The self-examination - Let’s pause and ask ourselves: *Are* we willing to “wash one another’s feet”?

Tale of two basins Jesus used His basin to wash His disciples feet, in John 18:38 (Pilate washes his hands of responsibility and compassion)

A personal reflection: Which basin will you choose—Pilate’s or Christ’s?

II. The mandate of love – Christ’s new commandment (John 13:34)

A. The Command - Jesus raises the standard: *Love as I have loved you*

B. This command - This command is not optional but essential

- Lev. 19:18 (Love your neighbor) Mk 12:29–31 (Greatest commandments)

C. The capacity - Romans 5:5 (Love poured into our hearts)

- It reflects divine, sacrificial love (John 15:13)

- Example: Corrie ten Boom forgives Nazi guard

A Personal reflection: Are you willing to serve and forgive with Christ’s love?

III. The mark of love – Christ’s people and their witness (John 13:35)

A. Love is the distinguishing mark of the true disciple

B. The early church believed and practiced this love “*See how they love one another*”

C. Our love is the church’s greatest apologetic and witness to the world John 17:21 (Jesus linked our unity and witness)

- 1 Corinthians 13:1–3 (Without love, nothing else matters)
- Titus 2:10 (Our love is how we make the gospel attractive)

A non-believer commented on how he was drawn by a Christian community’s love

A personal Reflection: What does the world see when they look at us?

Conclusion: Christlike love is the non-negotiable mark of true discipleship. It’s not an optional elective in the Christian life – it’s the core of “The Jesus Way.”

Final Challenge: Will we take up the towel and basin this week? Who is God calling you to serve, forgive, or welcome?

Prayer Focus: “Lord Jesus, fill us with Your love. Make us a people who live out Your new command in a new community. Amen.”