

Theme: Christianity isn't fundamentally *assent* to a system of doctrines or a set of theological statements (even though they are essential for our maturity in and faithfulness to Christ.) It is a *relationship* that is established in the perfect, mutual love of the Father and the Son, and is experienced and expressed in the love of the Son for his disciples, the love of the disciples for one another, and the love of the disciples for the Savior.

Background: Jesus begins his “Farewell Discourse” – John 13:31-16:33. This is not just for those who *are* Christians; this is what it means to *be* a Christian!

Introduction: Does love really mean “...never having to say you're sorry”? (*Love Story*, 1970)

I. Glory

A. The title of glory – Son of Man

1. In the Old Testament – a title of glory (Daniel 7:13,14)
2. In the New Testament – a title of Suffering (Matthew 17:12; Mark 10:33; Luke 9:22)
3. Combined in John (John 3:13,14; 12:23,34)

B. The revelation of glory

1. In creation and providence
 - Psalm 19; Isaiah 6; Ezekiel 1; Exodus 14; 16; Joshua 3; 1 Kings 18
2. In the *incarnation*!
 - a. Glory in the Son (1:14)
 - In taking human nature, flesh – becoming man, in the Son
 - Glory in the union of God and Man!!
 - b. Glory of perfect obedience, unity
 - Doing the will of the Father
 - Speaking the Words of the Father
 - The Son brings glory to the Father – the Father gives glory to the Son! (17:5)
3. In *relationship* (13:31,32)
 - Pictured in *relationship*!
 - Christ glorified in the Father
 - The Father is glorified *in* him

NOTE: This is the glory Christ will share with us (17:22)

4. In *salvation* (33)
 - a. The glory of the cross
 - b. Where they cannot come (33b)
 - 1) To pay the debt of sin
 - 2) Returning to glory that was his from the beginning

C. The hour of glory

1. Glory *Now!* At once!
 - The sacrifice is upon him
2. Missing the point
 - Jesus' tender care for his "little children"
 - They still don't understand the "glory" of the cross
 - Focused on Christ's leaving, not his commandment

NOTE: We need the manifest glory and love of the Father and the Son to understand and fulfill the new commandment.

II. Love One Another

A. A *new* commandment?

- Simple enough for a three year old to recite
 - Profound enough to challenge the oldest of the saints
1. What's not "new"
 - The greatest commandments
 - Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18 (Mark 12:28ff)
 2. What's "new"
 - a. The new benchmark – "as I have loved you"
 - b. The true source of love
 - The relationship of love between Father and the Son
 - John 14:31; 15:10
 - c. Love as "witness"

B. The picture of love

1. In Jesus
 - Humility (13:1-20)
 - Laying down one's life (15:31)
2. Before the world
 - Love: not in precept but in practice
 - Not doctrine but in action
 - No clanging cymbals (1 Corinthians 13:1)

C. The requirements the new commandment (Two things)

1. A relationship
 - a. With Christ
 - b. With one another
 - Breaking out of isolation
2. Commitment/Decision (1 Corinthians 13)

D. The fruit of this commandment

- The world around us is starving for the hope of such love
- "The world moves for love; it kneels before it in awe." (Character Edward Walker in "The Village")
- It recognizes the great power of love
- It must *see love* in action – as we love one another!