

Seven Life Changing Disciplines
#5 Love Unconditionally – John 13:31-35 (10/25/09 AM)

The background is the upper room. Jesus begins to prepare the remaining disciples for His coming betrayal and crucifixion. He begins by speaking about the glory of God (31-32).

We Glorify God by _____ Doing What He Calls Us to Do

1. Unconditional Love Is God's Creation

This is agape love "That you love one another." John uses this word eight times in chapters 1-12. He uses it thirty-five times in chapters 13-21. This love cannot be humanly generated.

- **The Holy Spirit _____ each disciple to love unconditionally**
This is divine love that is produced in the heart of the yielded believer by the indwelling Holy Spirit, Romans 5:5 & 1 John 4:7-8.
Only a _____ Christian Can Love with This Love

2. Unconditional Love Is Revealed by Christ's Demonstration

Jesus Personifies this Love

"That you love one another; as I have loved you."

The command to love had already been given. The law said "love your neighbor as yourself", Leviticus 19:18. Jesus elevates this.

- **Christ loves us _____**
This commandment is so important that Jesus repeats it, John 15:12-13. Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
This Love Has No _____ in Its Expression

3. Unconditional Love Is an Obedience Decision

This Is a One Another Command

Jesus did not say to love Him this way but to love fellow believers.

- **Unconditional love is an action not an _____**
What God commands He always enables. John 14:15, "If you love Me, keep My commandments."
This means that I serve others, I sacrifice for others, I put others ahead of myself, Philippians 2:3. Paul says that this is attitude of Christ.

- **The most challenging expression of unconditional love in the body of Christ is _____**

Colossians 3:13-14, "...bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection."

1 Peter 4:8, "And above all things have fervent love for one another, for 'love will cover a multitude of sins'."

Forgiveness is not forgetting. Forgiveness fully acknowledges the offense. Forgiveness is choosing to extend the same grace that we have received from God to someone else. The word Paul uses in Colossians 3:13 is the word *charizomai* which means "to bestow a favor unconditionally". The root word is *charis*, the word for "grace".

Unconditional Love Is an Action not a _____

4. Unconditional Love Is the Disciple's Identification

The Badge of Discipleship

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." Bitterness and division in the body of Christ is seldom caused by doctrinal differences. It is almost always caused by disobedience to this commandment.

- **The measure of our love is revealed by who we are** _____

This commandment does not come with qualifiers!

Matthew 5:44, "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."

- **The primary reason we disobey this command is** _____

Unconditional love requires humility.

Galatians 5:22-26, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another."

The Church of Thessalonica was a church like this with Christians like this. 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10, "But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more."

Paul's second letter to them gives us a clue as to why they had learned to so love each other.

2 Thessalonians 1:3-4, "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience

and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure."

Their persecutions and tribulations no doubt had a humbling effect.

What will God have to bring into your life to break your pride?

1 Peter 5:5, "Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble'." When I humble myself before God and before people His grace will enable me to love and forgive as He commands.

Unconditional Love Is a Spiritual _____