

“New Commandment and Identifying Trait”

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By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—In the Bible study on Wednesday night, April 19, 2023. I talked about John 13. In this short article, I would like to focus on verses 34 and 35.

New commandment

■ John 13:34—“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another . . .”

Is that really a new commandment? Doesn’t the Old Testament use those same words?

■ Leviticus 19:18—“You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.”

Some of those details are mentioned in the New Testament.

■ Romans 12:19—“Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the LORD.”

So how was the new commandment different?

■ John 13:34—“. . . As I have loved you, that you also love one another.”

Children of God today have the example of how our Lord behaved when He walked on the earth.

He suffered for us

■ Isaiah 53:4-5—The Son of God carried our griefs and sorrows, wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our inequities.

■ Matthew 26:36-44—The Son of God faced His sorrow and discussed the matter three times with the Father.

■ Luke 23:34—The Son of God said: “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do.”

■ Hebrews 4:15—The Son of God was tempted in all points—yet without sin.

■ 1 Peter 2:21-24—The Son of God suffered for us, and left an example for us to follow.

He died for us

■ John 1:29—John the Baptist said: “The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

■ Romans 5:6-8—Christ died for the ungodly. God demonstrates His personal love toward us in that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

■ 2 Corinthians 5:21—The Son of God (who knew no sin) made Himself to be sin for us.

■ Galatians 3:13-14—The Son of God has redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

He gave us liberty

■ Luke 4:18—The Spirit of the Lord was upon the Son of God to preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and to give liberty to those who are oppressed.

Accept my compliments

At this time, I want to compliment my friends who set a great example of loving their neighbors.

Good job of not repaying evil for evil (Romans 12:17).

Good job of being a peacemaker (Romans 12:18).

Good job of taking your justified anger to God, instead of seeking vengeance (Romans 12:19).

Good job of being willing to serve needs of your enemies—even as you wisely avoid them (Romans 12:20).

Good job of resisting evil, as you overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21).

Recognizable trait

■ John 13:35— “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”