



## ***First Things First Week 6: Love One Another***

October 15, 2023

*John 13:34 — “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”*

Why does Jesus say this is a *new* commandment? There are two reasons:

1. The command is new because it is a command to **live out** the love of Jesus.
2. The command is new because it is a command to **live on** the love of Jesus.

The words “as I have loved you” contain a **pattern** and a **power** for our love for each other.

Loving each other was commanded in the Old Testament in Leviticus 19:18. What’s new is that Jesus is now the pattern we live by and the power we live on.

### **Jesus, Our Pattern to Live By**

The basis of the first kind of newness (Jesus as our pattern) is found earlier in John 13.

*Read John 13:1-15*

Jesus gives us an acted-out pattern of love. John Piper says, “*The pattern is to lay aside status and be a servant.*” We are called to lay aside status and rank and prestige and privilege and take the form of a servant—that’s what Jesus does here.

Jesus washed the feet of those who should have been doing it for him. He laid down a sense of entitlement and served. We are to watch our Lord do this and follow Him in it.

### **Jesus, Our Power to Live On**

Jesus draws attention not only to the *pattern of love* we follow, but the *power to love* that we need. He describes a connection with Himself that gives the power to love. The key to His love was his relationship with God the Father. As He abides in His Father’s love, we are to abide in His love.

*John 15:5 — “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”*

To *abide* means to stay closely connected to. Using imagery of a vineyard, Jesus shows His disciples how an ongoing, vital connection with Him will directly determine the amount of His supernatural power at work in their lives. We are helpless to bear fruit alone. This includes staying closely connected to Him in your thoughts, affections, and trust.

**The result of abiding in Him is the ability to love supernaturally like Jesus.**

