

What kind of love is Jesus talking about in this passage?

In what way(s) is a disciple of Jesus to love another disciple?

How is the world to judge whether or not a person is a disciple of Jesus?

What makes it challenging to love another believer in the same manner Jesus loved His disciples?

When do you find yourself willing to love a disciple of Jesus?

When do you find yourself struggling to love a disciple of Jesus?

How can you show agape love to another believer who disagrees with you, has let you down, or betrayed you?

What steps are involved in becoming more loving to others?

GOSPEL CONNECTION

“We know love by this, that He (Jesus) laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” 1 John 3:16

“By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” 1 John 4:9-10

APPLICATION

Identify a believer in Jesus you struggle to love. Why is he/she hard to love? What will you do this week to take a step toward loving him/her?

MEMORY VERSE

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34–35

Sermon-Based Study Guide

// April 26, 2026 //

Sermon Series: *Koinonia*
Love Lived in Community

Paul Herr
Century Baptist Church

The Mark

John 13:31–38

1. Context
2. Clarity
3. Commandment
4. Copy
5. Character

Sermon available at centurybaptist.org/watch/

Community Life Group Sermon-Based Study

// April 26, 2026 //

Our desire and goal is for all who call Century Baptist their church home to be involved in a Community Life Group, Bible study, or Missional Community. We believe one of the best ways to be fed and exhorted in our faith is to interact with the Sunday sermon. This guide is a tool to facilitate that interaction to dive into the Sunday message through the study of Scripture together. If you are not in a group, we encourage you to take the step of involvement in community around your faith and the pursuit of faith in Jesus. This study guide can be used individually, however, the greatest benefit of growth in Scripture and faith comes when people are interacting together around Biblical truth, including how God is at work in their lives.

Contact Pastor Paul Herr at 701.223.0478 to learn more about sermon-based community life groups, and leading or hosting a group.

OPENING UP

How do you define love?

INTRODUCTION to *Koinonia*: Love Lived in Community

“Again and again, New Testament writers exhorted believers to engage in specific activities that would enable the body of Christ to function effectively and to grow spiritually. Frequently they used a unique word to describe this mutual and reciprocal process — the Greek word *allelon*, most frequently translated *one another*. In fact, excluding the Gospels, the word is used 58 times in the New Testament. The Apostle Paul used the word 40 times.

“When all the *one another* exhortations are studied carefully, and grouped together according to specific meanings, they can be reduced approximately 12 actions Christians are to take toward *one another* to help build up the body of Christ.” (Gene Getz, 1976)

This sermon series is built around these powerful exhortations, providing not only an understanding of what these injunctions mean, but also, practical steps of personal and corporate application of putting these exhortations into action at Century Baptist Church.

READ John 13:31–38

What was one point or statement from the message that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

What is the mission of Jesus’s church?

How does a follower of Jesus know if he is living obediently to that mission?

List all the people identified in the Biblical text.

Where does this interaction take place?

Summarize John 13:1-30.

Who “had gone out”? (v. 31)

What does Jesus mean when He states, “Now”? (v. 31)

Who is “the Son of Man”? (v. 31)

How is the Son of Man glorified? (v. 31)

How is God glorified? (v. 31)

What is the significance of the term “Little children”? (v. 33)

Why does Jesus say, “Where I am going, you cannot come” and what does He mean? (v. 33)

When and where would the disciples have previously heard the commandment to “love on another”?

How is Jesus’s commandment to “love one another” new?

What is the meaning of the word “love” (Greek: agape)?

How had Jesus loved His disciples earlier in the evening?