



Memorial Park

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

The Mark of the Christian

By Francis A. Schaeffer

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John 13:31-38

1. What is the context of Jesus' words to his disciples?
 - a. Where were they?
 - b. Why were they there?
2. What command did Jesus give his disciples?
 - a. In what way were his disciples to carry out his command?
 - b. What example or examples had his disciples been given to carry out his command?
 - c. Given the circumstances, how important is this command in comparison to Jesus' other teachings?
3. Compare this command in John 13:34-35 to Jesus teaching in Matt 5:43-48.
 - a. What is different and what is similar?
 - b. Explain the logic in I John 4:20-21.
 - c. In what way should our love for other disciples of Jesus differ from our love for enemies?
 - d. How do these two commands reinforce each other?
 - e. Regarding Gal 6:10, why did Paul use the word "especially"?
4. Note 13:35 where Jesus said, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
 - a. How is it possible to see love? How substantial must our love for others be in order for it to be observable? See I Cor 13.
 - b. Is Christian love conditional or unilateral? Why?
 - c. In what way does the concept about visible love define Christian love?
 - d. Do you agree with Schaeffer when he said that Jesus' command gives the world the right to judge whether you and I are true Christians on the basis of our love for each other?
 - e. Does I John 2:9-11 support Schaeffer's conclusion?
 - f. Why would observable love for fellow Christians give us an authentic connection to Jesus before a watching world? What should this observable love illustrate and reflect?
 - g. Peter indicated in I Pet 3:15 to always be ready to give an answer for the hope that is in you. What does it take for people to ask us about our faith?
5. How can Christian love arrest the attention of a world that is not interested in absolute truth?

John 17:20-26

1. What is the relationship between Christian love and unity among Christian brothers?
 - a. What does unity look like?
 - b. According to Jesus' prayer how does unity affect a watching world?
 - c. According to Jesus' prayer, what is the necessary requirement for unity?
 - d. Explain the spiritual intimacy that Jesus referred to in his prayer?
 - e. How do you practice intimacy with Jesus?
 - f. How can intimacy with Jesus affect your love for others?
2. What is the relationship between Christian love and Christian discipline among believers? See I Cor 5:1-5 & II Cor 2:6-8.
3. Why do Christians more often try to be right than they try to be loving?
 - a. What should Christians do when they differ?

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- b. What should be the objective in approaching our fellow Christian with whom we differ?
 - c. How can differences among Christians be an opportunity for attracting non-Christian interest?
 - d. What is the cost of Christian love?
4. What do you think about Schaeffer's example of the Brethren Church in Hitler's Germany?
 5. How can this study of Christian love and unity affect your approach in evangelism?