

Sermon Discussion

19 April 2020

John 13:31-33 (read)

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.'"

Dig Deeper

Jesus explained that His glorification would mean glory for the Father who would glorify the Son. Thus, Jesus continued to stress His unity with the Father to help His disciples appreciate both His individual identity and His essential deity. The disciples would not have to wait long to see the Son's glory.

1. If the word "glory" means worth, value, or brilliance, what would you say has the most glory in your life? Is there an adjustment that needs to take place?
2. Can you think of a time when you gave something up that was valuable to obtain something of more value? If so, what was it?
3. In what ways did Jesus glorify the Father?

John 13:34-35 (read)

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. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Dig Deeper

The command to love one another was not completely new, but in the Mosaic Law the standard was "as you love yourself" (Lev. 19:18). Now there was a higher standard, namely, "as I have loved you." It was also a new (Greek: "kainen," fresh rather than different) commandment in that it was part of a new covenant that Jesus would ratify with His blood. In that covenant God promised to enable His people to love by transforming their hearts and minds. It is only by God's transforming grace that believers can love one another as Jesus has loved us. The Greek words for "love" appear only 12 times in John 1-12, but in chapters 13-21 we find them 44 times.

1. What's the difference between loving someone and liking him? Are we commanded to like everyone? What does this imply?
2. Love is patient and kind, and yet neither Jesus nor Paul were always patient and kind (*Matt. 17:17; 23:1-39; Acts 13:6-12*). How do you reconcile this? How should we apply it?
3. What are the boundaries of visible Christian unity? When is it not only right, but necessary, to divide from erring or sinning Christians?

Application:

As you consider the verses above, meditate on these questions.

- If you want to do a better job of loving others, how should you go about it?
What is the best/only way to improve?
- How do you want to love sacrificially this week?
At home? At work? A difficult relationship? In how you plan your time?