

***Scripture Reference: John 13:30-35 / "Thank You"
Love is a Christian's defining character trait.***

Loving is not Always Easy

- When John recorded Jesus' gathering with His disciples for the last time before His crucifixion, placed two opposing events side-by-side:

Judas' betrayal & Jesus' "new commandment" to love.

- What a contrast, on one hand we find the devious actions of Judas, other the other Jesus' admonition to love.

- You think John connected the two intentionally?

- I do. If one can love at such a despicable time as this, there is truly something supernatural about the love present in his or her life.

Everyday Presents the Opportunity to Demonstrate God's Love

- The opportunities are seen in the anger, mistakes, lostness, and faults of others.

- When godly love is demonstrated in the most unappealing of time, then God is magnified.

Luke 6:32-35 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men."

Opportunities to Demonstrate God's Love:

May need to be looked for.

- People do things for reason we do not understand. Our ability to make sense of these should not be the qualifier for whether God's love will be applied.

Will be difficult.

- It is beyond our capacity to love in a godly manner. Accept this! We are not to love with the best of our love, but with His.

The purpose may elude us.

- If we love to see a result, we love for the wrong reason.

- We love with His love, because we are His children.

- We love with His love because He first loved us.

- We love with His love because it is the natural expression of God in us.