

Jesus New Commandment

Jesus' new commandment, which can be regarded as the "11th commandment", is recorded in several passages of John as follows (NIV version of the Bible).

John 13:34-35 "A new command I give you: *Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.* By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 15:12 "*Love each other as I have loved you.* This is what I'm commanding you to do."

1 John 2:5 "But if anyone obeys his word [to love one another], *God's love is truly made complete in him.*"

2 John 1:5-6 "... I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we *love one another. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands.* As you have heard from the beginning, his [Jesus'] command is that *you walk in love.*"

(See also John 14:15, 21; 15:10 and 17)

On the last night of his earthly life, in a series of discourses recorded in John 13-17, the key commandment that Jesus left with his disciples was to "*love one another as I have loved you*". In a sense, it was a new commandment – to be placed with, and above, the Ten Commandments of Moses, as well as magnifying the two great commandments of loving God and loving neighbor. It was the *Law of God's Love*.

The disciples were to love not only themselves, but all humankind – including those who spitefully used them or behaved as enemies. In addition, they were to love not just with the natural love given to all humans at their creation, but with the Divine Love which God had made available to humanity with Jesus' coming. This Love could be obtained through the action of the Holy Spirit transforming human souls upon earnest prayer. This was the meaning of the phrase, "as I have loved you," for Jesus had loved his disciples, and all humans, with the Divine Love which God had implanted into his soul because of his longings.

Jesus' prayer for "another Comforter" (John 14:16) meant that he would pray for the souls of his disciples to be opened up to the Divine Love and that the Love would be conveyed in increasing abundance throughout all eternity. It would not be conveyed merely because of Jesus' prayers, but rather because of the longing of human souls that were in the condition to receive it.

Reference: *New Testament Revelations of Jesus of Nazareth*, Revelation 22, page 58.