



John 13:34-35

"I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another.

[35] By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

**Peter (Simon Peter) –**

The outspoken disciple who would later deny Jesus three times (Luke 22:31-34).

**James (son of Zebedee) –**

One of the "Sons of Thunder," part of Jesus' inner circle.

**John (son of Zebedee) –**

The disciple whom Jesus loved, often found close to Him (John 13:23).

**Andrew –**

Peter's brother, a fisherman, and one of the first called by Jesus.

**Philip –**

Known for bringing Nathanael (Bartholomew) to Jesus (John 1:45).

**Bartholomew (Nathanael) –**

Recognized Jesus as the Son of God early on (John 1:49).

**Matthew (Levi) –**

A former tax collector who became one of Jesus' disciples.

**Thomas (Didymus) –**

Often remembered for doubting Jesus' resurrection (John 20:24-29).

**James (son of Alphaeus) –**

Sometimes called "James the Less" to distinguish him from James, son of Zebedee.

**Thaddaeus (Judas, son of James) –**

Sometimes referred to as Jude.

**Simon the Zealot –**

Formerly part of a radical Jewish political movement.

**Judas Iscariot –**

The disciple who would betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-16).

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1

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OVER BITTERNESS

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2

CHOOSE FAITHFULNESS  
IN SPITE OF DISAPPOINTMENT

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3

CHOOSE ACCEPTANCE  
IN SPITE OF FAILURES

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For the first time in verse 33 the Lord Jesus addressed His disciples as little children-a term of endearment. And He used it only after Judas had departed. He was only to be with them a little while longer. Then He would die on the cross. They would seek Him then, but would not be able to follow Him, for He would return to heaven. The Lord had told the same thing to the Jews, but He meant it in a different sense. For the disciples, His departure would only be temporary. He would come again for them (chap. 14). But for the Jews, His leaving them would be final. He was returning to heaven, and they could not follow Him because of their unbelief.

13:34 During His absence, they were to be governed by the commandment of love. This commandment was not new at this time because the Ten Commandments taught love to God and to one's neighbor. But this commandment was new in other ways. It was new because the Holy Spirit would empower believers to obey it. It was new in that it was superior to the old. The old said, "Love your neighbor," but the new said, "Love your enemies." It has been well said that the law of love to others is now explained with new clarity, enforced by new motives and obligations, illustrated by a new example, and obeyed in a new way. Also it was new, as explained in the verse, because it called for a higher degree of love: "As I have loved you, that you also love one another."

