

Sunday, May 19, 2019

John 13:31-35

Thems: "THE POINT OF DEPARTURE: - LOVE ONE ANOTHER"

At the beginning of this chapter, Jesus washed His disciples' feet...  
Later in the chapter He predicted that one of His disciples would betray Him...  
In this preaching portion, He speaks of His glorification; His death...  
Through His death Jesus succeeds in achieving His resurrection...  
Not only that, but God's glory can finally be seen in light of both Jesus' death and resurrection...

The reason is: Jesus had to die to experience the resurrection...

So, everything else that follows is from the standpoint of the Cross and the Resurrection...

So, when the glorified Christ speaks, we ought to listen because He speaks from experience and with authority...

The meaning of the difficult saying of (v. 33) is from the vantage point that we now understand - Jesus is going to His death...

This saying also prepares the way for others in which Jesus will reveal how after "a little while longer" the disciples will see Him again (14:19-20; 16:16-24...)

At the point of departure, Jesus gives His disciples a new commandment: Love one another (13:34...)

This love commandment is a suitable summary of Jesus' teaching; it is an emphasis of the church of Christ...

Therefore, we must continue to extend the love...

\*Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Paul quote the command to love the neighbors (Leviticus 19:18...)

\*In contrast to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Paul, John's record indicates that Jesus commands His disciples to love one another...

\*Love those of the inner circle...

\*Love the church...

\*Your love will show that you are true disciples of Jesus Christ...

\*I am not Jesus; and I am not going to die...

\*But as your spiritual leader, I want to use the words John used in this passage to describe Jesus' saying...

\*"Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek me, but I will be gone (v. 33...)

\*"Where I am going, you cannot come,' you have work here at FUMC to do...

\*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another (v. 34...)

\*By loving one another all will know that you are members of FUMC because love is what uniquely defines us...

\*More importantly, by loving one another all will know that you are disciples of Christ...

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, we find the virtue of what love means...

The church at Corinth was blessed with wonderful gifts...  
Many Christians were exercising their God-given abilities without love for one another...  
It is okay to be excited about the spiritual gifts God is blessing us with...  
\*But we must remember that it is only love that will make these gifts effective...  
No matter how glamorous some spiritual gifts look, using them without love is useless...  
Love is essential, so Paul offers a blueprint of love...  
First he speaks about what love is NOT...  
The chapter is divided into three sections...

(Verses 1-3)

Paul contrast Agape Love with other spiritual gifts...  
For example, speaking in tongues, prophecy, knowledge of mysteries, miracle-working faith, giving of money or food to the poor, and self-sacrifice...

(1 Corinthians 13:1)

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal...

(1 Corinthians 13:2)

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing...

(1 Corinthians 13:3)

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing...

(Verses 4-7)

Paul spells out what Agape Love does. In other words, it describe the deeds of Agape Love...

(1 Corinthians 13:4)

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

(1 Corinthians 13:5)

does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

(1 Corinthians 13:6)

does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

Then in the following verses he talks about what love really is...

(1 Corinthians 13:7)

bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things...

(Verses 8-13)

Paul elaborates the permanence of Agape Love...

(1 Corinthians 13:8)

Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away...

(1 Corinthians 13:9)

For we know in part and we prophesy in part...

(1 Corinthians 13:10)

But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away...

(1 Corinthians 13:11)

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things...

(1 Corinthians 13:12)

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known...

(1 Corinthians 13:13)

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love...

"The Point of Departure: Love One Another..."

Amen!