

## Sermon Title: Known By Our Love

Text: John 13:31-35

### Discussion Questions:

- Thinking back to your high school days, what were some things that you were known for? Why were you known for those things?
- Looking at your life today, what would be some things that other people would say you are known for and why? Would there be anything from that list that you would disagree with and why?
- What would be one thing that you wished you were known for and why?
- What was something that stood out to you from the message and why?
- The book *UnChristian* describes the increasingly negative reputation of Christians, especially among Young Americans. The research shows that Christians are best known for what they are against. The six big themes that emerge from this research is that outsiders believe that Christians are **hypocritical, too focused on getting converts, antihomosexual, sheltered, too political, and judgmental?** From that list, which one stands out to you and why? Would you disagree with any of them? What would you add to this list?
- As Christians, what can we do to change that reputation? How can we change our reputation from the things that we are against to the things that we are for?
- How can we be known for how well we love another?

### Examination Questions:

Read John 13:31-35

- What does Jesus say about the glory that he and his Father receive? When are they being glorified?
  - Once Judas leaves, how does what he is about to do set into motion a series of events that will lead Jesus and God being glorified?
  - How is Jesus glorified through the cross? Read Philippians 2:9-11.
  - How is God glorified through the cross? What does the cross bring to completion that God has been concerned about since sin entered the world in Genesis chapter 3?
- What does Jesus call his disciples in verse 33?
  - Which disciple uses this same phrase when he writes to Christians in the first century? Read 1 John 2:1, 12, & 28; 3:7 & 18; 4:4; & 5:21.
  - What does the use of this phrase “little children” tell you about the love Jesus has for his disciples?
  - Did John learn and model the love of Jesus in his life? How do you know?
- Read John 13:33. Where is Jesus going that the disciples cannot come? Has Jesus used this language before? Read John 7:33-34 & 8:21
  - Do the disciples understand or comprehend that Jesus is going away? Why does Jesus tell his disciples that he is going away?

- If you were one of the disciples, would you have understood what was about to happen to Jesus? Would you have gotten it?
- What command does Jesus give his disciples? Is this really a new command? Read Leviticus 19:18.
  - What does Jesus add to this command that makes it new? What does Jesus say that qualifies or defines the type of love he's commanding his disciples to have?
  - What kind of love does Jesus have for people? How did he demonstrate his love? What words would you associate with the way Jesus loved others? Read Romans 5:7-8; John 13:1-17; & Philippians 2:3-8.
  - What are some things that you can do as a Sunday School Class/family/etc to help each other follow this command to love one another?
- What does Jesus say about how the world will recognize his disciples? Read John 13:35.
  - What should be the most identifiable trait of a Christian? Read Matthew 22:37-40; Galatians 5:22.
  - How important is it for us to love one another? What impression does it give others when they don't see love among believers?
  - How has the Christian world done, over the years, in loving one another and being recognized as Jesus' disciples by our love?
  - What can you do to make love for others a bigger part of your life?

### **Application:**

Jesus could not have been clearer on this point—when you love like He loves, you will draw others to Him. People will see something different in you. If they see Jesus' love in your words and deeds, then that can change hearts. If they see the power of Jesus' love working in the lives of His followers, then they will be challenged to think differently about Jesus and His extraordinary love.

- 1. Where would you like to see more of Jesus' love in your life?**
- 2. What's a practical way you can love someone like Jesus this week?**

As you group closes today, spend some time in silent prayer as individuals. Pray for a heart that sees and loves others like Jesus. Ask the Spirit to reveal anything in you that's holding you back from living out Jesus' example of love. Is it fear of being disappointed or rejected? Anger because of past hurt? Pride? Resentment? Listen and confess anything that the Spirit reveals. Finish by praying for God to give you moments to share Jesus' love in a tangible way this week.