



## Jesus' Take on Relationships

John 13:34, 35

**Dad said:** “You kids get along while we’re gone! I mean it! I better not hear of any problems!”

**What do you think?** Are we “getting along” and is “getting along” really the standard?

**Please note:** We are about to study *the very first words* out of Jesus’ mouth after Judas left to betray Him and *almost the very last words* of instruction before He was crucified.

**Problem:** We may not be taking Jesus’ last words very seriously—or seriously at all!

This commandment is “new” not as in “just invented” but as in “refreshed and elevated.”

**Jesus raised the relationship bar:** “*Keep on loving one another exactly as I have loved you.*”

- **Listen:** Daunting as this is we must be able to do this or Jesus would not command it.
- **Keep on loving—enduring love:**
- **Love others like Jesus loved us:**
  - By His own choice:
  - Not based on our merit:
  - With a goal of giving and increasing our wellbeing:
  - With concrete action:
  - Patiently:
  - Emotionally:
  - Sacrificially:
- **Importance of the command:** This kind of love shows that we are Jesus’ disciples.

**Jesus raised the relationship bar:** “*Keep on loving one another exactly as I have loved you.*”

# Walking Papers—Practical helps for pursuing God all week!

**Jesus raised the relationship bar:** *“Keep on loving one another exactly as I have loved you.”*

- **Today.** Please read, reflect on, and memorize John 13:34.
- **Monday.** Please read Phil 2:1-11. How does this passage illustrate and apply John 13:34?
- **Tuesday.** Please read John 13:34. What are the applications for you of “choosing to love”?
- **Wednesday.** Please read one of the passages below and reflect on its application for you.
- **Thursday.** Please read one of the passages below and reflect on its application for you.
- **Friday.** Please read one of the passages below and reflect on its application for you.
- **Saturday.** Please read one of the passages below and reflect on its application for you.

**Here are a few of the hundreds of possible applications of loving like Jesus loves:**

- Matthew 6:12-15: Forgive others fully.
- Matthew 7:1-5: Examine yourself before you help your brother with his faults.
- Matthew 5:43-45: Love your enemies.
- Matthew 18:15-18: Confront with grace and truth and help from others.
- Matthew 25:34-36: Help those who are struggling.
- Luke 6:36: Be merciful.
- Luke 10:25-37: Help anyone whose need you know and whose need you are able to meet.
- John 13:14: Wash each other’s feet.

**Some foundational truths about biblical love:**

- ...it is more important than eloquence.
- ...it is more important than giftedness.
- ...it is more important than generosity.
- ...it is amazingly patient.
- ...it is deeply committed to the wellbeing of others.
- ...it is always glad when others prosper.
- ...it never brags.
- ...it is never arrogant.
- ...it never acts like a jerk.
- ...it never promotes its own welfare.
- ...it never gets provoked.
- ...it never keeps score.
- ...it never cheers for evil.
- ...it always celebrates the truth.
- ...it carries the heaviest burdens for others.
- ...it puts the best possible interpretation on everything.
- ...it hopes for the very best in others.
- ...it puts up with everything without exploding.
- ...it never gives out.
- ...it is the greatest.
- ...all this is paraphrased from 1 Corinthians 13.

*Note for Connection Groups:* The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at:  
[www.cypressbible.org](http://www.cypressbible.org) (Quick Menu / Connect / Sermon Based Small Group Material).