

Signs

What Defines Us

John 13:18-38

Previously in John 13 . . .

I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. (John 13:15)

As followers of Jesus, we never leave this foundation. If the mark of a true disciple is that we love as he loved us . . . that means picking up the basin and towel in humility and seeking each other's best. (Michael Yearley)

A New Command

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. (John 15:12)

And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister. (1 John 4:21)

What Now Defines Us

- The _____ Is To . . .

- _____ Jesus' Love

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! (1 John 3:1)

- _____ Jesus' Love

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4:11)

Ideally . . . the church itself is not made up of natural 'friends.' It is made up of natural enemies. What binds us together is not common education, common race, common income levels, common politics, common nationality, common accents, common jobs, or anything else of that sort. Christians come together . . . because . . . they have all been loved by Jesus himself . . . They are a band of natural enemies who love one another for Jesus' sake.

(Donald Carson, *Love In Hard Places*)