

# How Do You Show Others You Are a Christian?

John 13:34-35

## Introduction

Do others around you know you are a Christian? How would they know?

What do you do that shows others you are a Christian? \_\_\_\_\_

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Jesus had one answer for how we will show others that we follow Him: Loving one another. And that (not coincidentally) is where we ended our last series from Colossians 3:12-14 last week. Loving one another summed up all of the other garments Paul said we were to put on.

I was surprised to realize this week that in all of the New Testament passages that tell us how to do church, 90% of them are about how we relate with each other, not what songs we sing, when and how often we should meet, how we should baptize, how to preach, etc. In other words, 90% of what it means to be a follower of Jesus has little to do with what we do on Sunday morning at 11AM.

If that's the case, then we may be focusing on the wrong things in our efforts to be good Christians. The "checkboxes" of church attendance, giving, staying awake, etc., may not be the be all, end all of our faith. Loving each other in practical ways may be much more important. Andy Stanley says that the 90% of what it means to be a follower of Jesus is "one-anothering one another."

## Background Passage

John 13:34-35 – <sup>34</sup>"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

## Background

If you were told that you had less than 24 hours to live, what would you do? Who would you spend your time with? What would you say to them?

Jesus said this during the last supper, right after Judas left them. The beginning of chapter 13 tells us that Jesus knew he was about to die. So that tells you how important this statement must be.

## Verse 35 – Translation Notes

There are no significant variations among any of the major translations.

## Loving One Another

BTW, the Greek word used for love in verse 35 is agape, the same word we studied in Colossians 3:14 last week.

Last week we talked a lot about loving each other by assuming the best about them. That is definitely a great way to show love, but there are many other practical things we can do to love one another. That is what we will talk about today.

If someone were watching us (and they are!), what things might they see that would make them think, "Wow! They really love each other!"? \_\_\_\_\_

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How much of that happens on Sunday morning?

In actual fact, what do most outsiders see when they look at us (or Christians in general)? \_\_\_\_\_

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Casting Crowns – Jesus, Friend of Sinners – "Nobody knows what we're for, only what we're against, when we judge the wounded."

Westboro Baptist Church – protests against everything

How are we doing as a group proving we are Jesus' disciples?

What should we do? What can we do?

## Conclusion:

They will know us by our love.

Based on God's direction in these passages, I need to \_\_\_\_\_.