

Scandal of particularity: Love one another as I have loved you [John 13:31–35]

Context

- Jesus washes the feet of the disciples
- Jesus shares food with Judas
- Jesus begins His farewell discourse including naming a successor – HS
- His farewell statement begins with glory, departure, and love

Jesus self identifies as the Son of Man

Jesus speaks as if His glory is complete: *Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him*

³³ *Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come*

- Jesus speaks to the disciples as a father
- Jesus alone is the Lamb of God going to the cross

³⁴ *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you*

- *mandatum novum*
- At first glance, nothing appears new about the command to love.
- But the love of Jesus is mediated in a radically new way
- Jesus is *the scandal of particularity*. Unique

What does it mean to *love one another: just as I have loved you?*

- [First - Focus] Target fellow believers within the church before outsiders
- Jesus expects you to love your brother and sister in Christ just as Christ loved you

[Second] The marginalized identity of Jesus on the cross shapes our actions in love

- The cross and incarnation of our Lord establish expectations for love in and outside the church

Finally; *Love one another as I loved you* is the divine formula for Gospel witness

Love is patient and kind – it never ends. How do we love one another?

- Romans 5:5: *God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit*
- C. S. Lewis got it: *Do not waste your time bothering whether you love your neighbor act as if you did.*
- *It is no longer I that live but Christ living in me* [Galatians 2:20]

Christ-like love has no end

- Sacrificial love is never shaken since it draws from God's abundance and presence
- John 14: 23 is the proof text: *Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them*
- Jesus elevates the new commandment of love to the highest standard in John 15:13 *There is no greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends*
- When John writes *love one another as I love you* – he is saying no one is worthy of divine grace on the basis of pedigree or works but on the basis of God's love in Christ impaled on the cross.