

Study Guide

Series: Family Matters

Study 6: *Walking in Christ-centered Relationships*

Scripture: John 13.34-35

Teacher: Pastor Keith

Date: September 20, 2026



Objective: We're called to walk in **Christ-centered** relationships with one another, so we can experience His love, develop His character, and display His love to others.

Points to the message:

1. The _____ is love: – v34a. A new command I give to you, that you love one another...

Christ's love is the measuring stick for our relationships as children of His family.

- Love is relational – how we treat one another
- Love is intentional - you choose to love
- Love is sacrificial – others before self

2. The _____ is Christlikeness: v35c. as I have loved you, that you love one another. Jesus repeats the command after He says, “as I have loved you, love one another.”

Core idea: ‘as I have loved you, love one another.’

Christ's love for us is transformative! Christ loves us-we receive His love-His love transforms us-we give the same love to one another. **WORD:** I John 4.8

Jesus's love is agape other-worldly:

- Service – “I did not come to be served but to serve.”
- Humility – ‘You ought to wash one another's feet like I have done for you.’
- Forgiveness – ‘forgive them for they know not what they do.’

‘Experiencing Christ's love produces Christlike character traits that we need to foster a relationship that is going through difficult times.’ **WORD:** I Corinthians 13.4-7

A Christ-centered relationship is a *mutual* ‘one another’ relationship. Agape love doesn't require reciprocity - ‘I love you if you love me back’. But relationships do require mutuality – ‘love one another’ if the relationship is going to be healthy and growing.

Reciprocal relationship: love one another

- Forgive one another – Colossians 3.13
- Bear with one another – Ephesians 4.2
- Honor one another – Romans 12.10
- Serve one another – Galatians 5.13

3. The _____ is love on display – v35. By this all will know that you are My disciple (child), if you have love for one another. (NKJV) **WORD:** I John 4.8

‘Christ-centered relationships *lead* with love. Love is *evidence* of a relationship with God because love comes from God and reflects His nature.’

Takeaway: Christ-centered relationship is where Christ’s love is experienced, Christ’s character is developed, and Christ’s love is displayed.

DEEPER STUDY

Wisdom: The Scriptures are not merely words about God, but they are the voice of God in print speaking to us.

Transfer the information to know what God says, to revelation, to understand what God reveals, meditation, to reshape your mind that changes your beliefs and behavior to think like Christ, to transformation to become what God desires:

1. Information – What is being communicated through the Scripture(s) about Christ-centered relationships? Who is speaking, and who is being addressed? What is happening in the passage? What words, commands, promises, warnings, or principles stand out?
2. Revelation – What is God revealing? **About the Scriptures:** What does this passage reveal about God’s character? What does it reveal about His heart, His will, His promise, His holiness, His grace, or His power? **About You:** What does this passage reveal about your heart, thoughts, attitudes, choices, weaknesses, identity or purpose? **About Others:** What does God reveal about how you should see, understand, love, forgive, serve, or respond to others?
3. Meditation – What do I need to change? Let God’s Word move from your mind to your heart (desire, emotions, and thoughts). How does God want to reshape the way you think so you can see what He sees, know what He knows, feel what He feels, and do what He wants? What truth must you meditate on until it transforms the way I think, see, understand, feel, and live? What lie or worldly way of thinking needs to be replaced by God’s truth?
4. Transformation – What will I do differently? Turn what God showed you into a specific action. What specific actions will you take to change? What will obedience look like today? Is there a habit you need to start or stop? What decision needs to change because of what you have learned? How will God’s truth become visible in your life?

Result: Information: Know what God says – Revelation: Hear what God reveals – Meditation - Reshape your mind that changes your heart to believe and behave like Christ Transformation - Become what God desires

NOTES: _____
