



- John 13:34-35 – “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- “Welcoming in” means that we love each other deeply. Through faith in Jesus Christ, we are experiencing God’s matchless love, and we know that God wants us to do our best to love each other in the same way that Jesus loves us. In fact, our purpose is to love one another with such sincere, Christlike love that everyone will be able to see that we really are God’s people.

### 1.) Love is **MANDATED** (v. 34a,).

- v. 34a – “A new commandment I give to you...” (Romans 10:9)
- Today’s text is an express commandment from our Lord to love.

### 2.) Love is **MISUNDERSTOOD**

- v. 34b – “...that you love one another...”
- Living for Christ means loving fellow believers deeply and sacrificially (I Peter 4:8, Matthew 25).
- The way we treat each other in the church is, quite literally, the way we treat Christ Himself.
- One of the best ways to assess your love for Christ is to consider your love for your brothers and sisters in the church.

### 3.) Love is **MODELED**

- v. 34c – “...just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”

- This is a new commandment because it is based upon the new standard of love that was perfectly revealed in Christ (Ephesians 5:1-2).
- Knowing that God's love for us is most perfectly revealed in the cross, Christ died in our place while we were still sinners.
- *Are you living in the radical others-centeredness of Christ? Or are you suffocating in self-centeredness?*

#### 4.) Love is **MIRACULOS**

- John 15:5, 1 John 4:7, 19

#### 5.) Love is **MISSIONAL**

- Love for one another is an instrumental means by which God intends to send forth the Gospel on earth (Acts 2:44-47).
- v. 35b – *“By this all people will know...”*
- *What do our relationships with one another tell a watching world about the love of Christ?*

#### 6.) Love is **MATURITY**

- v. 35 – *“...that you are my disciples...”*
- Love is a critical mark of Christian discipleship.
- Christian discipleship grows Christian love in Christian people (Ephesians 4:15-16, 1 John 4:16-17).

#### 7) Love is our **MISSION**

- 2015 Mission Card: All Things New

### Summary

- *Who and where in the church are you loving with the kind of selfless, others-centered, brotherly love that Christ commands in John 13?*

– Will you commit to “welcome in” in 2015?

By God’s grace, I resolve to “welcome in” for God’s glory in 2015.

Signed, \_\_\_\_\_