

Study Guide for Oct. 3rd, 2010. Love & Assurance: John 13:31- 14:4

Introduction: What goes through your mind when you feel you might fail in some way?

I. A New Commandment: (John 13:31 – 35)

- A. Who had left the gathering? How would his absence change the situation?
- B. How will God express His glory in Christ? (Recall John 1:14 & 12:23-26)
- C. How will God glorify the Son in himself? (Recall John 1:1-2 & 17:5)
- D. What gives urgency to Jesus' command (vs. 34)? (See John 7:33-34 & 8:21)
- E. In what sense is this command not 'new' at all? (See Deut. 6:5 & Lev. 19:18)
- F. What is the pattern by which the disciples are to love one another? (See vs. 34b)
- G. What will be the result if Jesus' disciples actually obey this command?
- H. Comment on the following, "The *new command* is simple enough for a toddler to memorize and appreciate, profound enough that the most mature believers are repeatedly embarrassed at how poorly they comprehend it and put it into practice."
(D. A. Carson, Commentary on John, pg. 484)

II. Failure and Assurance: (John 13:36 – 14:4)

- A. Consider Peter's question (vs. 36). What does he ignore? What does he focus on?
- B. How do you understand Jesus' answer that Peter cannot follow now, but will later?
- C. Consider Peter's follow up question and claim (vs. 37). What is Peter ignorant of?
- D. Read John 21:18-19 in light of vs. 37. What did Peter eventually discover?
- E. What does Jesus predict that Peter will do? (See John 18:15-18 & 25-27)
- F. What is the state of ...the disciple's heart? ... Jesus' heart? (John 12:27 & 13:21)
- G. What does Jesus tell his disciples . . . to do (vs. 1)? . . . he will do for them (vs. 2-3)?
- H. What does Jesus assert (vs. 4)? How does he further explain this (vs. 6)?
- I. On what basis should we not be overly troubled by any circumstance?