

Ebenezer Youth Fellowship
The Upper Room Discourse (3) – The Marks of the Committed Christian
Text: John 13:31-38

1. Review

- a) The parting words started with the teaching and demonstration of the humility of love.
- b) The story of Judas is probably the greatest tragedy ever lived out.

2. An unending preoccupation with the Glory of God (v.31-33)

- a) The very purpose for which we exist is to give glory to God, and not preoccupied with our own glory. The Lord Jesus will teach by example and precept.
- b) v.31b “Now is the Son of man glorified” knowing He is going to the cross.
- c) v.31c “And God is glorified in him” with His attributes proclaimed in redemption.
- d) v.32 “God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightaway glorify him” pointing to the future glory of Jesus Christ which means having to leave His disciples. Hence, His words of concern for His disciples in v.33.

3. An unflinching love for the Children of God (v.34-35)

- a) Without the physical presence of Jesus Christ, the disciples can still enjoy a full, rich experience of true love in each other.
- b) Believers in Christ have a God-given capacity to love (Rom 5:5) and love is the fulfilling of the law (Rom 13:10b).
- c) Love is a commitment to the good of others, and a willingness to sacrifice for their sake (John 15:13).
- d) The standard of love is set by Jesus Christ “as I have loved you” – holy, selfless, sacrificial, gracious, unconditional, forgiving. Have you reached this mark?
- e) How can we manifest visible love?

4. An unswerving loyalty to the Son of God (v.36-38)

- a) Discipleship demands more than a promised loyalty. For Peter, there was a huge gap between his promise and his practice when his loyalty was put to the test.
- b) 4 things made Peter to fail the test of loyalty:
 - He boasted too much (v.37; Matt 26:31-35,56)
 - He prayed too little (Luke 22:40,45-46)
 - He acted too fast, not discerning God’s will (Luke 22:50)
 - He followed too far away (Luke 22:54)
- c) The most significant thing we learn from Peter’s life is that God can turn a life around when it is finally humbled, chastened, and truly yielded to Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. Share a verse in John chapter 13 of the spiritual lesson that you are most convicted with.
2. What one mark of a committed Christian will unbelievers say of you that they distinguish you as a Christian?