

What disciples must understand

John 13:31-38

- I. The glorious cross: The tragedy of the cross leads to the glory of God (John 13:31-33).
 - A. The cross would be a win, not a loss – The cross will display God’s glorious power and love (31-32).
 - B. Christ must leave to accomplish on the cross what no one else could (33).
 - Application: *The core motive of ministry is to glorify God through the message of the gospel.*

- II. Contagious love: Imitating Christ’s love becomes the impact of the church (John 13:34-35).
 - A. The disciples must love one another sacrificially like Christ (34).
 - B. The world would understand Christ by how the disciples loved each other (35).
 - Application: *Evangelism begins in the challenge of Christian relationships.*

- III. Tested commitment: Our intention to follow Christ will be tested by reality (John 13:36-38).
 - A. Feeling committed – Peter, you can’t follow me now no matter how committed you feel (36-37).
 - B. Failing at commitment – Peter you will fail me before you truly follow me (37-38).
 - Application: *We must recognize the difference between the emotions of commitment and the reality of sacrifice.*